

CRICKET
SLAND'S FAILING
EXPOSED ONE
MORE BY SLAT

KEEP OR
THE PITC

ital tru

AL CORD
14.99

IVE £5.00
\$24.95

ON 0768

Medical Briefing
Dr Thomas Stuttaford on
epilepsy, and
patients of leukaemia, p17



Oh yes it is!

Panto time again:
essential guide, p37;
leading article, p19

TIMES
FINANCIAL APPROPRIATION
NIGHTS OF THE NORTH
PIRE & THE THIRTEEN
MANAGEMENT

Top appointments

Eighteen pages featuring
the best senior job
opportunities, Section 3

20P

THE TIMES

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17 1994

No. 65,114

Honouring Brussels deal 'is a matter of confidence. There is no room for compromise'

Major stifles revolt with election threat

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

JOHN Major appeared last night to have crushed a new Conservative backbench revolt over Europe after threatening a general election if he lost the Bill providing more money for the European Union.

Tory Euro-sceptics were pulling back from rebellion after the Prime Minister made plain to the Commons that he was prepared to put the Government's survival on the line. Mr Major told his party rebels: "No one should doubt the importance of securing the Bill unchanged, and early. There is no room for compromise. It is not an optional measure that can be used as a bargaining counter for other European negotiations. This is an international commitment entered into two years ago with the full support of the Cabinet."

"No British Government would have credibility in international negotiations if it failed to implement the agreements it had freely entered into with its partners abroad," he said, "incomparably a matter of confidence".

Mr Major's pre-emptive strike against the Euro-sceptics overshadowed the opening day of the new parliamentary session, and a Queen's Speech that included 13 well-trailed Bills.

His decision to turn the unseathed passage of the European finance Bill into a matter of confidence made it difficult for Tory MPs, but much easier for the opposition parties, to vote against the

- European Community (Finance): rise in Britain's contributions to the EU.
- Disability Rights: improved rights of the disabled.
- Pensions: retirement at 65 for men and women by 2020.
- Gas: to abolish the British Gas domestic monopoly.
- Channel Tunnel Rail Link: high-speed link from London.
- Crown Agents: privatisation.
- Jobseeker's Allowance: single benefit for the unemployed.
- Criminal Justice (Scotland): various reforms.
- Health Service: saving on administration of NHS.
- Environment Agencies: establishing new agencies.
- Agricultural Tenancies: greater freedom to negotiate tenancy agreements.
- Mental Health (supervised discharge): stronger powers of supervision.

legislation. Labour and the Liberal Democrats would naturally take any opportunity to vote down the Government.

The threat, reinforced repeatedly by ministers last night, was that Mr Major would seek a dissolution of Parliament if he were defeated. By last night many Tory Euro-sceptics had given up their fight but a handful were questioning whether the threat was real and were still considering whether they would back a Labour amendment tying the budget increase to a crackdown on EU fraud.

Although Mr Major consulted each member of Cabinet before he made his decision, some critics were questioning whether his senior colleagues would allow him to insist to the last that the Bill was a confidence issue if the result would be the fall of the Government.

The rebels will meet next week to decide how to respond to the Prime Minister's threat. Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, tried to leave them in no doubt about the consequences. He said during a Channel 4 interview that any government that could not push through its financial legislation or deliver its international word had lost the confidence of the Commons. The consequence would be that the Prime Minister would seek a dissolution and the Queen would grant it.

James Cran, MP for Beverley, who was one of the leaders of the Maastricht revolt, said he had always taken the view that this was a Bill "that is not worth fighting".

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, told Mr Major in the Commons that if he was treating the Bill as a confidence issue "then life becomes much more difficult for the Government, not less". He mocked Mr Major's action, saying that it had come to something when a Government could secure the passage of its legislation only by threatening its own demise.

Mr Major's tactics, unprecedented in recent political history, increased the sense of bitterness among the diehard Euro-sceptics and on the Right generally. His strongest critics



The Queen Mother, who has an injured foot, watches the Queen's coach going down The Mall to Westminster

clearly lack sufficient numbers to mount a leadership challenge this month but they remain a constant danger to him in any future Government crises.

A senior rightwing figure said last night: "He can only play this card once."

Mr Major's friends said, however, that it was the only possible issue in the foreseeable future on which he would

need to play for such high stakes and that his confrontational play was justified.

The Prime Minister was reported to have decided that some sceptics were intent on using the Bill, essentially a straightforward matter fulfilling an international obligation, as an excuse for once again attacking Britain's EU membership.

The finance Bill, which in-

creases Britain's contribution to Brussels by £75 million next year, will be pushed through the Commons as swiftly as the Tory whips can manage.

It will be a short measure but Labour intends to table amendments linking increased contributions to reform of the common agricultural policy, tackling fraud and introducing the social chapter in Britain.

While Mr Major and his ministers hailed a "substantial" legislative programme for the year ahead that proved the Government had not run out of steam, the Tory Right were, as expected, bemoaning the lack of radical measures.

Queen's Speech, pages 10 and 11
Peter Riddell, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Childcare tax relief expected in Budget

By Jill Sherman
Political Correspondent

TAX relief on childcare is being considered by Kenneth Clarke as a Budget "sweetener" to rebuild Tory support among the middle classes.

The Chancellor is looking at options to provide help for working mothers, including vouchers for childcare and allowing tax relief at 20 or 15 per cent. In a separate initiative, he is also believed to be looking at tax breaks for those paying for training courses.

Mr Clarke is anxious to pre-empt Tony Blair, the Labour leader who is likely to focus on improvements in childcare in his party's welfare reforms. Tax relief on childcare would also help those Middle England families, the group that Labour is most keen to attract.

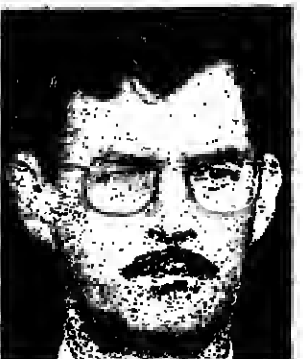
The plan has run up against opposition by some ministers who argue that the Government should not encourage women with families away from the home. Critics also argue that the idea would benefit richer couples most and runs counter to the Treasury's efforts to cut tax relief. Those in favour point to an increase in the under-fives and the electoral advantages.

Tax relief at the full rate is not a likely runner, given Mr Clarke's caution on the economy. Full tax relief for both double earning families and single working parents would cost the state nearly £2 billion. If tax relief was only given at 15 per cent however, the cost for both groups would fall closer to £900 million.

Mr Clarke is also said to be considering a voucher scheme to introduce nursery provision for all four-year olds. In addition, he is looking at ways to encourage people to take up training courses. Under one plan students would be given tax relief for fee-paying courses.

Irish government falls as Spring leaves coalition

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent



Spring: party will vote against Prime Minister

THE government of the Irish Republic collapsed last night, threatening to endanger the Ulster peace process, when Dick Spring, the Deputy Prime Minister, announced that he would vote against Albert Reynolds at the end of a confidence debate in the Irish parliament today.

In a speech to a packed sitting of the Dail the Labour leader brought down the 22-month-old coalition government when he effectively accused Mr Reynolds of lying over his handling of the dispute over a senior legal appointment. He said: "I believe it will be obvious to the House that neither I, nor any of my colleagues, can vote confidence in the government at the

conclusion of this debate. All of my Labour colleagues in Cabinet, and all the junior ministers who are members of the Labour Party, will resign from their offices before the vote is taken."

There are three possible ways forward. Mr Reynolds could ask President Robinson to dissolve the Dail. If she agreed, an election would have to be held within three weeks. President Robinson is entitled to refuse a dissolution, however, which would allow the opposition parties to try to form another coalition.

The third possibility is that Fianna Fail Cabinet ministers could replace Mr Reynolds with another minister who would be acceptable to Mr Spring. There are rumours that Mr Spring would return to the coalition government if that happened.

In his speech, Mr Spring accused the Prime Minister of missing out a vital piece of information in his statement to the Dail on Tuesday when he claimed that he could not offer a "satisfactory or ade-

quate explanation" why there was a seven-month delay in dealing with extradition warrants against Father Brendan Smyth, a priest who abused children.

Labour ministers walked out of Friday's Cabinet meeting after Mr Reynolds overrode their objections, and promoted Harry Whelan from his position as Attorney-General to President of the High Court. Mr Spring strongly opposed Mr Whelan because his department delayed dealing with nine extradition warrants against the priest.

The Labour leader said that Eoghan Fitzsimons, the new Attorney-General, told him he had informed Mr Reynolds of his report on the dispute. Mr Spring said: "It was immediately apparent that the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) should have included this vital information in the statement he made to the House yesterday if he wished to give a full explanation of all these events. Had he done so it would have completely altered the thrust of his speech and had a profound effect on the subsequent debate."

Mr Spring's resignation came after Mr Reynolds disclosed the key detail for the first time last night. He said that Mr Whelan had been mistaken to say that the Smyth case was the first under a new extradition Act. The former Attorney-General had used that to explain the delay in dealing with the case. In a continued on page 2, col 1

Peter Brookes, page 18

Clarke gets triple boost on economy

By Our Business News Staff

KENNETH Clarke, the Chancellor, yesterday enjoyed a triple boost to the economy less than two weeks before his Budget speech on November 29. Unemployment fell for the ninth month, inflation appears to be under control, and what seemed a year ago to be a mountain of public debt is declining.

The Government was able to repay £558 million of debt last month, defying City forecasts that it would need to borrow £1.2 billion. This took the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement for the first seven months of the tax year, ending in April 1995, to £19.2 billion against £26.4 billion in the same period last year. In the City, it is hoped that Mr Clarke will be able to announce in his Budget a cut in the Treasury's full-year borrowing target of £36 billion.

During October, the number of jobs fell by 45,800 to 2,521 million, 8.9 per cent of the workforce and the lowest since October 1991. Inflation edged up to 2.4 per cent in October from 2.2 per cent, but this was mainly caused by higher mortgage rates after the September 12 half-point rise in interest rates. Underlying inflation, which excludes erratic mortgage payments, was unchanged from September at 2 per cent.

Average rise of earnings during the year to September remained at 3.75 per cent for the fourth month in a row, while unit labour costs were 1.4 per cent down on the third quarter of 1993, the largest annual fall since 1971.

Business news, page 25

Social worker wins stress at work case

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A FORMER social worker could win six-figure damages after he won a landmark High Court victory yesterday against his employers for exposing him to stress at work, which drove him to a nervous breakdown and ended his career.

John Walker, 57, who said he was left "shell-shocked" by his ordeal, became the first person successfully to sue his employers for the injury caused to his health by overwork. Damages have yet to be assessed but Mr Walker's union, Unison, said it was looking for a £200,000 pay-out — and it warned other employees that bosses who overwork their employees could face court action.

Mr Justice Colman ruled yesterday that Northumberland County Council was liable to pay Mr Walker, a father of four, damages because of its unreasonable failure to provide a safe system of work. Lawyers said they believed the case was the first of its kind to succeed, but others are in the pipeline. Mick Antoniwi, a partner with Robin Thompson

& Partners, who specialise in workers' compensation claims, said it was clear that in certain circumstances workers could bring claims over stress-related illness.

Employers had to be on their guard. Claims for stress-related illness brought by trade unions were on the increase "which reflects the growing pressure workers are being put under," he said.

"Employers can't turn round and say, this is nothing to do with us. They have to have regard for the whole of the working environment — not just equipment, or the type of work, but the whole environment which affects the health and well-being of employees."

There has been only one other claim, brought by a civil servant last year, and rejected by the Court of Appeal. Yesterday's ruling is in line with recent health and safety regulations that were placing more emphasis on stress in the workplace, he said.

It would not open the floodgates, however. Each case would be judged on its own facts. "It's not enough just to say you are under pressure and cracking up."

Workers have to show that their illness was caused by stress; and second that their employers were negligent in exposing them to practices that the bosses could have foreseen would lead to illness.

Another lawyer, Stanley Cherry of Beachcroft Stanley, said while the implications of the ruling were digested, employers should keep "a watchful eye on stressful situations in the workplace."

Mr Walker, of Vernon Continued on page 2, col 8

Hunting for Perfection~



Frustrating thought...
Much as I applaud the convenient bottles which allow me to enjoy the subtle, smooth flavour of the impeccable ale at all times, keeping them safe from a den of thieves is an altogether more awkward affair.



"OLD SPECKLED HEN"

When you're a thirst for tradition

MOBLAND OF ARINCION. BREWERS SINCE 1711.

No bark and even less bite gives Lucy little cause for thought

If you want to know how the debate on the Queen's Speech went, ask Lucy. Lucy, a new parliamentary commentator, has a reputation for political insight. Lucy is a dog. She found the debate boring. She wanted to go home. So did we.

Lucy has another job besides commentary. In harness, she guides Labour's Health spokesman, David Blunkett. She led her master to his place yesterday afternoon in time for the set-piece debate between Tony Blair

and John Major. Blunkett settled down beside Blair, and Lucy lay on the carpet. Her jet black coat looked unusually lustrous and curly, as though permed for the occasion. She closed her eyes, perhaps to concentrate on the measures to be laid before us.

First came Sir Bob Dunn (C, Dartford) who made the opening speech, by tradition reserved the said for "a genial old codger". There was general agreement that Sir Bob was an old codger, but some question as to his geniality. He laid into Lab-

our, calling Dennis Skinner a pipsqueak, comparing Tony Blair with a wolf and describing the Thames as designed to keep Essex out of Kent. Lucy lifted her head irritably at these attacks, thought better of her protest, yawned and shut her eyes.

She pricked up her ears to hear the next speaker — by tradition reserved for a young thruster on the Tory benches. At the last election Raymond Robertson (C, Aberdeen S) was the only Tory to reverse a Labour victory at the previous one. Lucy opened one eye



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

in what seemed to be quizzical bemusement as to the secret of Mr Robertson's electoral appeal. As he moved to discuss the virtues of Gas deregulation, Lucy closed the eye in despair.

Then came Mr Blair. Lucy sat up, stirred by the stirring of interest around her. She managed to stay alert for the first five or six pages of a

speech which never quite got going but somehow never seemed to stop.

The new Labour Leader did not make a bad speech, but his failure to make a good one was a palpable disappointment. He sounded hesitant. We had heard it before. Was this all, then, all he was ever going to be?

Blair is, so to speak, the

Labour Party's new bridegroom, and yesterday was the honeymooning after the honeymoon. "How was it?" asks George Eliot, "that in the weeks since her marriage, Dorothea had... felt with a stifling depression that the large vistas and wide fresh air which she had dreamed of finding in her husband's mind were replaced by anterooms and winding passages which seemed to lead no whither?" Lucy, if not Dorothea, lay down again, closing her eyes.

I cannot say she opened

them for Mr Major's speech. Was she listening as he spoke (convincingly) about Northern Ireland?

Did she, like me, note with amusement the PM's report of a visit to a modern British steelworks? "One of the most efficient steelworkers in the world, at Port Talbot". Tory industrial policy has reached its logical conclusion. "Name him!" shouted Skinner.

The speech seemed even longer than Blair's. Mr Major turned to discuss the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill. Lucy fidgetted. The PM

moved on to the Children (Scotland) Bill. Lucy placed one paw, pleadingly, on Mr Blunkett's leg. He stroked her muzzle.

The PM began to describe the joys of the Medical Act (Amendment) Bill. Lucy stood up and began pawing desperately at Blunkett's thighs.

Mr Blunkett rose with a light tug on Lucy's harness. All but dragging her master behind him, she was off, tail wagging wildly. The rest of us did not get off so lightly.

Spring quits

Continued from page 1
scathing attack on Mr Whelehan, the Prime Minister said that Labour, his junior coalition partner, was right to oppose the appointment of Mr Whelehan as high court president. Mr Reynolds said: "I would have expected that the most senior legal officer of the state would have known of the case of 1992... Had my colleagues and I been aware of these facts last week we would not have proposed or supported the nomination of Harry Whelehan."

He added that Mr Whelehan claimed that he had forgotten about the earlier extradition case in 1992. "If the former Attorney-General was still the holder of that office he would in my view of the circumstances have had no option but to resign. He would be honourably accepting responsibility for the fact that his report did not disclose the fact that there had been a previous case."

In a plea to Labour to remain in government, the Prime Minister claimed that their coalition had been a most successful Irish government which had brought peace to Northern Ireland and economic growth.

Mr Reynolds's speech came after the Dail had been adjourned repeatedly as government ministers tried to work out a definitive response over the delay in the Smyth case. At one point it was alleged that a senior member of the Roman Catholic Church had tried to interfere in the extradition of Father Smyth. That prompted Cardinal Cahill Daly, the Primate of All Ireland, to say that the allegation was completely absurd and a total fabrication.

Peter Brookes, page 18

Catholic Church pledges to prevent child abuse

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Roman Catholic Church in Ireland announced a new code of practice yesterday to stamp out child sexual abuse by priests after a series of cases in recent weeks.

The initiative, announced by the church's bishops at their autumn meeting in Maynooth, Co Kildare, came after a priest convicted of child sex offences provoked this week's political crisis in Dublin.

The church's discomfort was compounded when another priest was found guilty in Dublin of assaulting a teenage hitch-hiker and a 66-year-old priest collapsed and died in a gay nightclub in Dublin. In a statement yesterday the bishops said: "Child sex abuse by a priest is especially heinous not only because it is evil in itself but because it is the violation of a sacred trust... We, like

others, are coming to realise more fully the complexity of this problem and the enormity of the suffering and damage it causes."

They added that the trust a child placed in a priest was grievously damaged by sexual abuse. "We recognise that these children and their families have been hurt and betrayed by abusive behaviour on the part of a priest. They deserve an apology which we unreservedly offer."

The bishops said they were determined to prevent sexual abuse. A committee established by the Bishops' Conference announced a five-point code, including a pledge to speed the church's response to complaints of abuse and more help for victims. The move by the bishops came after Dick Spring, the Labour leader and Deputy Prime Minister,

walked out of Cabinet last Friday because of a delay in dealing with extradition warrants from the RUC against Fr Brendan Smyth, who sexually assaulted children.

Fr Smyth, 67, a Norbertine Order priest, was convicted in Northern Ireland last June of sexual offences against young children. At Belfast Crown Court his barrister described him as a "fixated paedophile". He was jailed for four years for the offences committed against five girls and three boys between 1964 and 1988.

The children, who were aged eight to 14, were abused at their homes or in orphanages. There are also allegations that he assaulted children in the Irish Republic while he served as chaplain at Tralee General Hospital between 1990 and 1993. The church faces a difficult

task as it tries to improve its tarnished image. It is still reeling from one of the biggest ecclesiastical scandals of the century in 1992 when Dr Eamonn Casey, the Bishop of Galway, was found to have a son by a mistress.

Earlier this week a priest was given a 15-month suspended sentence in Dublin for sexually assaulting a male hitch-hiker. Father Michael Carney, a former parish priest in Co Galway, admitted sexually assaulting the 19-year-old student in June last year.

Last weekend another priest collapsed and died in a gay nightclub in Dublin after suffering a suspected heart attack. Two priests, who were drinking in the Inconito Sauna Club at the time, administered the last rites to Fr Liam Cosgrove, 68, who had been there for seven hours.

Coalition was fraught from the start

By OUR IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE political crisis in Dublin is the culmination of squabbles that have plagued Ireland's coalition government since it was formed in January 1993.

Fianna Fail, the senior partner, regards itself as Ireland's natural governing party and feels uncomfortable with having to be in coalition. Labour, which won a historic 19 per cent in the last election in November 1992, is equally unhappy that it has to share power with its conservative opponents.

The first signs that the government, which has the largest majority in Irish

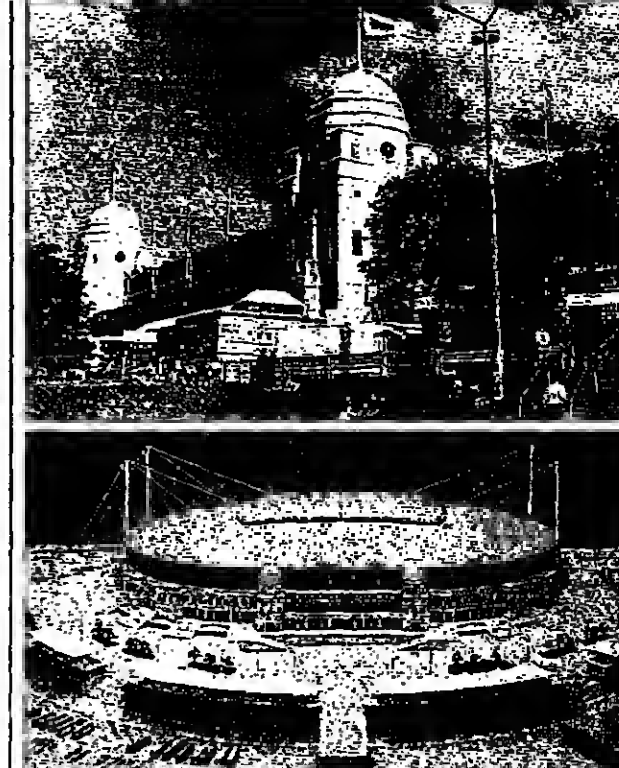
history, could collapse came in September when Albert Reynolds, the Taoiseach, announced his support for Harry Whelehan as president of the High Court. Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Labour leader, is strongly opposed to Mr Whelehan because he is regarded as too conservative on social issues and because his department delayed dealing with an extradition warrant from the RUC for a priest, Brendan Smyth, who committed paedophile offences.

On 24 September the Taoiseach, who was on a visit to Australia, was told that Labour was prepared to leave govern-

ment over the issue. In early October, the battle lines were drawn when the Taoiseach said that Mr Whelehan was the only nominee for the post.

The dispute came to a head last Friday when Mr Spring walked out of Cabinet after Mr Reynolds overrode his objections and nominated Mr Whelehan.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, arrives in London today for a 48-hour visit. His first since the Government lifted the exclusion order. His first engagement will be a press conference in the Palace of Westminster. It is believed his visit to Parliament is being hosted by Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield.



The new stadium, below, would keep the twin towers

Wembley pitched into planning controversy

By JOHN YOUNG

ENGLISH Heritage took the unusual step yesterday of approving the demolition and reconstruction of Wembley Stadium without the consent of the owner.

The proposals for an all-weather 100,000-seat venue with a retractable roof were submitted by Genesis Consortium, which has made two takeover bids for the debt-laden stadium in London.

The owner, Wembley plc, said it was surprised that English Heritage had com-

mented on the application: "We have nothing to do with this whatsoever, and we regard the proposals as totally unrealistic." English Heritage said it wanted to provide guidance to present or future owners on what would be an important scheme.

Genesis, which includes John Laing Construction, said: "We will now tidy up our design and resubmit it, and we will be happy to work with whoever owns and controls the stadium."

'Stress' case

Continued from page 1
Drive, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, who joined the authority in 1965, accused his bosses of subjecting him to "an impossible workload" in his role as area manager responsible for social services in the Blyth Valley area.

In 1986 he suffered a nervous breakdown but returned to work the following year when he was again exposed to excessive workloads. He eventually retired on medical grounds in May 1988 after a second nervous breakdown.

The court was told Mr Walker's illness was caused not so much by his hours as by the increase in his workload. The population of Blyth Valley had risen from 65,000 to 80,000 while he was responsible for social services and there was a corresponding increase in social work cases such as child abuse.

The judge said: "It [the authority] chose to continue to employ him, but provided no effective help. In so doing, it was in my judgement acting unreasonably and therefore in breach of its duty of care." The council is to appeal.

Roger Poole, Unison's assistant general secretary, said the "tremendous victory" would help "many millions of workers" who risked becoming the victims of stress caused by overwork.

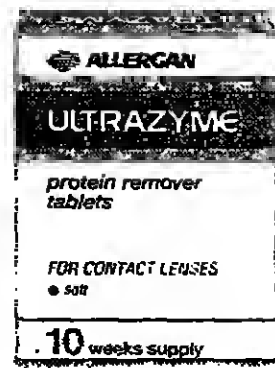
"We will take employers to court where we find they are abusing workers' health by loading them with an unacceptable amount of work," he said.

Alan Wilkinson, Unison's general secretary, said: "This ruling is a warning to employers that they can no longer expect their staff to pay for their health while struggling to provide under-funded, under-resourced services."

Save at Boots



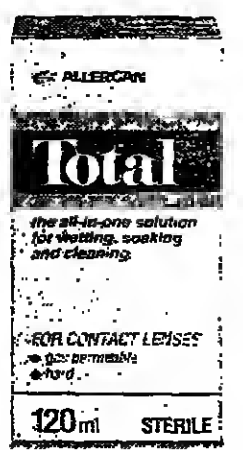
Hydrocare Fizzy Tablets 24
NOW £7.39 SAVE £1.86



Ultrazyme Protein Remover Tablets
10 Weeks Supply
NOW £6.59 SAVE £1.10



Oxysept 1 Step
NOW £7.59 SAVE 40p



Total 120ml
NOW £3.79 SAVE £1.11



Someone Cares

Subject to availability.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry may trace hepatitis C victims

The Department of Health is considering tracing and counselling every person who may have been infected with the hepatitis C virus through contaminated blood products. The move follows this week's disclosure of the deaths of 12 haemophiliacs from the virus last year. Records show that about 3,000 haemophiliacs who began treatment before 1985, when the method of producing clotting factors meant they were almost certainly infected, are still alive. A similar number of non-haemophiliacs may have contracted hepatitis C from blood transfusions.

£88 for RAF mother

A former RAF corporal was awarded £88 from the Defence Ministry yesterday in the latest case of ex-servicewomen claiming compensation for being dismissed over pregnancy. Michelle Bryden, 33, who served for six years, was told she was entitled only to £88 because she was dismissed after she had given notice of her resignation.

Labour whip collapses

Derek Foster, Labour's Chief Whip, was taken to hospital yesterday after collapsing at Westminster. Tony Blair later told MPs at the start of the debate on the Queen's Speech that Mr Foster's condition was stable and "not a cause for alarm". Mr Foster, 57, MP for Bishop Auckland, had complained of dizziness and fell in a Commons tea-room.

Council errors cost £5m

Recent mistakes and incompetence by Liverpool council and officers have cost the city £5.2 million and are still rife, according to a report by an emergency council committee meeting tonight. The report, by Alison Jones, the district auditor, highlights a loss-making council contract to install cable for television to 125,000 homes.

Police inquiry cleared

Police officers will not face charges over their investigation of the murder of Alison Shaughnessy, a 21-year-old south London bank clerk, which led to the conviction and later release on appeal of Michelle and Lisa Taylor. The Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday. The sisters had complained that police had suppressed evidence.

Murder trial halted

The trial of Thomas Bourke, 32, accused of murdering two MoT inspectors, was halted yesterday. Mr Bourke denies shooting the men at one of his garages in Stockport last year. The jury at Manchester Crown Court were sent home after one day. Mr Justice Sachs ruled that the trial must begin again next week with a new jury.

Insurer shuns car

Norwich Union is refusing to insure new Range Rovers because the car's high-technology security system has failed the insurer's tests. The company is telling owners to fit anti-theft devices costing at least £250. Land Rover said that it was baffled by the decision.

£5m forecast for first jackpot on National Lottery

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE jackpot in Saturday's inaugural National Lottery draw is almost certain to reach £5 million and could go even higher on the back of an unforeseen scramble to buy tickets.

Sales had reached £20 million by yesterday afternoon and more than 10 million people are believed to have played so far.

The rush to buy tickets has staggered Camelot, the operator, which had conservatively estimated a jackpot of £2 million. There is no cap to the jackpot and it could continue to swell if ticket sales continue at the present rate. About one seventh of total sales are set aside for the top prize, meaning that sales of £35 million will generate a jackpot of about £5 million.

Punters spent £50,000 on tickets in the first 12 minutes after lottery terminals went live on Monday. Camelot's central computer can accept entries until about half an hour before the draw.

The jackpot can roll over for a maximum of three weeks if the

six winning numbers fail to produce a winner. That raises the prospect of a top prize approaching £20 million on the latest projections.

The figures were released last night as new research suggested that the lottery would divert £2 billion a year away from consumer spending on everyday treats such as sweets, snacks, magazines, cigarettes and drinking in public houses. Shopping patterns are also likely to alter with more men than usual making the weekly family trip to the supermarket to enable them to pick up their lottery ticket with the groceries.

Fiona Stewart, director of the Herdley Centre, the independent organisation that carried out the research, said long-term savings in banks and building societies and in life assurance and pensions policies and spending on essential items such as food were not likely to suffer from lottery ticket sales.

Michael Balfour, page 16

To get 5% off
your mortgage
every 5 years



simply call
First Mortgage Securities



Done.

First Mortgage Securities

Call free 0500 0500 55

Don't pay to be happy

Security over property and a reliable life insurance policy will be required. Loans subject to status. Without quantities available on request. The APR is based on a typical example. Typical Example: Repayment loan of £45,000 for a house purchase of £200,000 for no initial loan term of 30 years at an interest rate of 7.99% APRAS on £200,000 in 2002. Total cost of credit £95,100.20 including legal fees £2,500.00 and of £200 inclusive of VAT. Application fee £25.00. Insurance fee £25.00. Valuation fee £50.00 and is subject to completion. Includes loyalty bonus of 3% of outstanding balance on 30th and every subsequent 30th anniversary of loan. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Former wife accuses Queen's equerry of marital violence

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE former wife of an equerry to the Queen claimed yesterday that she had endured years of marital violence.

Diana, Lady Loram, admitted two charges of failing to give breath samples to police but told magistrates that she blamed her behaviour on six years of abuse from Vice-Admiral Sir David Loram.

She claimed she had been dissuaded from taking legal action because her husband worked for the Palace.

The couple separated in 1989, after six years of marriage, and are divorced. Sir David, who retired as Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in 1980, is an extra gentleman usher to the Queen, an honorary post that involves

minor duties at garden parties and other ceremonial occasions.

After magistrates at South Molton, Devon, imposed a year's driving ban and a £250 fine on Lady Loram, she insisted on addressing them. "I live on my own. I am five miles from the nearest town. How do I cope? It's an impossibility. I've lived apart for four solid years, without income and with an enormous mortgage. My husband used to hit me around the head, but because he worked for the Palace there was pressure not to take him to court."

Sir David, who was not in court, said later: "I totally refute what she says. It is absolute nonsense. I don't want to go into what she did to me during the years of our

marriage; it would be just one person's word against another.

"I could say all sorts of things. If my ex-wife chooses to bring these matters up in her defence, that is up to her. Diana's behaviour has been strange, to say the least. I am terribly sorry that she is unhappy."

The court was told that Lady Loram had installed a tenant in the couple's former home, The Old Vicarage at the Exmoor village of West Anstey, and had put it on the market for £400,000.

Last night a former neighbour, Elizabeth Burton, said: "David is a charming, lovely man. He did an enormous amount for the church and the village and we were all terribly sorry to see him go. He was the one who had to do all the menial jobs in the house. His main job seemed to be following her dogs around with a pooper-scoop. It's incredible when you think what he did for this country."

Tony Creech, for the prosecution, told the court that police were called after Lady Loram had visited her leased house and were later called again after a complaint from a neighbour she had visited by car. She refused to take a breath test and was taken to Barnstaple police station, where again she refused.



Sir David and, leaving court yesterday, Lady Loram



Marie Rendle, Samantha Stansby, Joanna Willis, Emma Hartley, the survivors, outside court. They will not be called to give evidence

Canoe trip survivor recalls vain struggle

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SURVIVOR of the Lyme Bay canoe tragedy described how four of her friends struggled in vain to remain alive after losing their canoes.

Emma Hartley, now 18, sat in the public gallery of Winchester Crown Court as a 19-page statement she had given to police two days after the tragedy was read to the court. With her were the three others who survived, Samantha Stansby, Joanna Willis and Marie Rendle, and the parents of the four who died, Dean Sayer, 17, Claire Langley, Rachel

Walker, and Simon Dunne, all 16. Miss Hartley said that problems started almost immediately after they set off from Lyme Regis with Norman Pointer, 50, a teacher, and two novice instructors, Tony Mann, 23, and Karen Gardner, 21.

Peter Kite, 44, managing director of Active Learning and Leisure, Joseph Stoddart, 53, manager of Lyme Regis Challenge Centre, and OLI Ltd have denied four charges each of manslaughter and gross negligence by failing to provide reasonable care, adequate equipment and staffing.

Miss Hartley said that after drift-

ing helplessly they bunched together in their canoes to form a raft. "The waves became large. They were about head height and they were knocking us about... A fishing boat came by and those of us with whistles on our lifejackets blew them. We thought another boat was coming towards us. We were cheering and were happy but it just went past."

"Everyone was asking where the rescue boat was. I heard someone praying out loud. Dean Sayer said he wished he had gone to church. Rachel wanted her mum and Claire said she could not hold on." Miss Hartley's

statement said. Dean Sayer's canoe began filling with water. "He got into the water but managed to get back into his canoe. The waves were moving us towards the cliffs. I thought we would reach them and be able to get out."

None of the four teenage survivors will be giving evidence after both counsel agreed it would place too much stress on them. Mr Justice Ognall said he wished to acknowledge the "commendable humanity and responsibility" of counsel in sparing them from reliving their ordeal. The trial continues.

Constituent says MP behaved like a toad

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TORY whip was accused yesterday of being a toad allegedly dismissing a distraught constituent who said she felt like throwing herself from a window.

Karla Crouch had tearfully complained to David Lightbown, a senior whip, about the stress caused by a Child Support Agency order. Mr Lightbown, MP for Staffordshire South East, allegedly replied: "I can't be doing with people who show such emotions. If you're going to jump out of a window, jump out of your own window at home, and not mine."

Mrs Crouch and her husband Phil, of Tamworth, have written to Conservative Central Office to complain. Mr Crouch, who has been ordered to pay an extra £100 a week to his former wife, said: "I couldn't believe he spoke to my wife like that. I will never vote for that toad for the rest of my life. My wife has had suicidal thoughts... How can any self-respecting human being say such a cruel remark?"

Mrs Crouch said: "We are on the verge of bankruptcy and things had gone too far so we decided to see if he could help us. But when we came out I felt twice as bad." The MP was not available for comment last night.

Woman tells jury of electrocution attempt in bath

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WIFE told a court yesterday how her husband tried to electrocute her in the bath days after she found love bites on his neck.

Sheena Easson, 32, said she found wires, attached to the metal leg of her bath going through a hole drilled in the wall. She heard a sharp crack and a strong smell like a cap gun makes, but thought it was a light bulb exploding.

In tears, Mrs Easson told the High Court in Glasgow: "I thought he was trying to kill me." Earlier she said her marriage was unhappy and that her husband had a girlfriend.

After discovering the wires, she said she tried to keep calm so that her husband would not know she had discovered his plot to kill her. She had then telephoned the police to alert them.

William Easson, 38, denies forming a criminal purpose to electrocute his wife, a nurse, at their home in Symington, Strathclyde, 11 months ago.

The prosecution claims he connected a wire from the fuse box in their council house to the leg of the bath and switched on the power while his wife was in it.

She told Ann Paton, advocate depute, that she had previously left her husband, an unemployed council driver. He had been violent towards

her and often threatened to kill her, she claimed.

But she told Mrs Paton that she had returned to him because her life had no purpose without her children. Her husband, she said, had promised to change, but ten days before the alleged attempt on her life, he stayed out most of the night and returned with love bites on his neck.

She said: "It was his birthday and the children were waiting to give him his presents, but he didn't return until 3.45am."

Mrs Easson eventually found out that his girlfriend was a local woman. Days later he asked her if she wanted a bath, which she thought odd because they were not talking.

She said she ran a bath and heard a plug going into a socket next door in the kitchen. The next day she went for a bath and noticed that the paintwork on the skirting board had been disturbed and there was a hole in the wall.

Behind the panel of the bath she found an electric cable with the copper wire wound round a bath leg. She said: "I started shaking. I thought he had tried to kill me."

Mrs Easson said she tried to keep composed before making an excuse and leaving the house to summon the police.

The trial continues today.

Terrified thief seeks refuge with police

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CAR thief ran into a police station and asked to be arrested to protect him from the irate car owner who had chased him for half a mile.

The 25-year-old joyrider took the Ford Fiesta from outside a Chinese takeaway after the motorist left the keys in the ignition but it stalled as he drove away and the owner soon caught up with him. He abandoned the car in Sunderland city centre and fled, with the 19-year-old owner in pursuit.

When the thief ran out of breath and failed to shake off his pursuer, he sought refuge in Gilbridge Avenue police station and asked to be taken into custody.

The police officer who was on duty said: "It was a sight to behold. He dashed in and gave himself up rather than face the large motorist who had been chasing him. He begged us to arrest him and we were more than happy to oblige."

The man was charged and bailed to appear before Sunderland magistrates next month.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Paris on £155 a day

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH GETS THE EUROSTAR TREATMENT

WEEKEND

JANE MACQUITTY'S TOP 20 WINES

IN THE MAGAZINE

THE PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION:

If you want to win, don't share your knowledge with your enemies.



Whatever activity your organisation is engaged in, there will always be a certain amount of information you'll need to keep secure. That's why many organisations entrust their data to Informix technology. And that's all we're prepared to tell you about it.

INFORMIX®

World leaders in database technology.

FOR THE BEST INFORMATION, RING (0181) 818 1081. INFORMIX SOFTWARE LIMITED, 6 NEW SQUARE, BEDFORD LAKES, FELTHAM, MIDDLESEX TW14 5HA.

YOU'VE GOT JUST TWO DAYS TO BUY A LOTTERY TICKET.



The first ever National Lottery draw show will be live on BBC 1 on Saturday evening, beginning at 7pm.

And because millions of people are playing, The National Lottery jackpot has grown to an estimated £5m.

You can play in over ten thousand outlets around the country and this number is increasing every day. (Look out for The National Lottery

sign outside.) All you do is choose six numbers between 1 and 49 and mark them off on a National Lottery playslip.

It costs £1 a go, and in return you'll receive your ticket with your set of numbers on it. Match your set of six numbers with the six main numbers drawn, in any order, and you'll be one of our jackpot winners.

If you've picked five main numbers, plus

the bonus number, you've won the second biggest prize, an estimated £100,000.

On top of which, there are also hundreds of thousands of prizes for matching five, four and three main numbers every week.

For more information, pick up a "How To Play" leaflet from your local National Lottery retailer.

And in two days time, it could be you who's holding a winning ticket.

IT COULD BE YOU.



THE NATIONAL LOTTERY™

Excluding the £10 fixed prize, any prize won by two or more people is shared equally between them. The value of these prizes entirely depends on the number of winners and tickets sold. The National Lottery is subject to The National Lottery Games Rules and Procedures. Players must be sixteen or over. © Camelot Group Plc.

هذه من الاصل

Couple who bought Romanian baby freed from jail term

FROM SEAN HILLEN IN BUCHAREST

THE British couple convicted of buying and attempting to smuggle a baby out of Romania had their jail sentences suspended yesterday by a Bucharest appeal court.

But Adrian and Bernadette Mooney, arrested last July when police found a five-month-old girl concealed in their car, might not be allowed home for another 12 days, it emerged.

The court cut the couple's sentence from 28 months to two years, suspended it and ordered them to leave the country. Technically, the prosecution has almost a fortnight in which to appeal.

However, the Mooneys, from Wokingham, Berkshire, already had the assurance of Ion Iliescu, the Romanian President, that he would grant a pardon and send the couple home if yesterday's ruling went against them.

As he was driven away from the court yesterday Mr Mooney said: "We are very happy

and glad to be going back. It has been a long time for us to be here and we are looking forward to being with our relatives again."

Viorel Pascu, the couple's lawyer, commented: "Justice has been done. This is the correct sentence."

The teenage, unmarried gypsy parents who sold their child to the Mooneys also had their jail terms suspended. The local middleman and two accomplices had their 32-month prison terms shortened to two years and 18 months respectively.

British Embassy officials were last night trying to discover whether the couple would be forced to remain in the country for another 12 days despite the likelihood of an appeal.

The Mooneys were the first foreigners prosecuted under tough new adoption laws introduced in 1991 to halt a wave of baby smuggling after the 1989 anti-communist revo-

lution exposed the plight of tens of thousands of Romanian orphans. They had paid the middlemen £4,000 for baby Monica Bazarau, whom they tried to smuggle across the Romanian-Hungarian border without proper papers.

Viorel Pos, the appeal court president, said after the verdict: "The case was not too difficult to decide and the fact that the Mooneys already have adopted a Romanian child influenced our decision. Ion Iliescu's announcement in London recently that he would pardon them has not influenced the court's decision."

In their defence, the Mooneys said that they did not know that they were breaking Romanian adoption laws and apologised to the state prosecutors for what they had done.

The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering said the Mooneys' experience should serve as a lesson to other couples thinking of going abroad to adopt a child.



Relief shows on the face of Adrian Mooney yesterday as he and his wife Bernadette hear the ruling of the Bucharest appeal court

Anguish and pain on the road to Bucharest

By BILL FROST

ADRIAN and Bernadette Mooney took a risk they knew could cost them their freedom when they were shown last July to a run-down apartment in Bucharest, where they paid £4,000 for Monica Bazarau, the unwanted child of a teenage gypsy couple.

Days later the Mooneys were followed to the Hungarian border and arrested. Police found Monica

wrapped in a blanket in a cardboard box in the back of the car.

Between the 1989 revolution and July 1992 about 500 Romanian babies were adopted by British couples. Then strict new regulations were introduced by the Romanians in agreement with Britain.

Mrs Mooney was 24 when she was told she could not have children, after an appendix operation went wrong. With her husband's support, she

started on the road of fertility treatment. When that was unsuccessful, they turned to adoption, but by then Mrs Mooney was 35, and British agencies told her she was too old.

But the Mooneys refused to give up. They legitimately adopted their daughter Grace three years ago when Mrs Mooney walked into a Romanian hospital and asked if there was a baby she could have. Monica's "adoption" was different. Now eight

months old, she is one more child without parents at the St Ecaterina orphanage in Bucharest, a world apart from the four-bedroom house in Wokingham, Berkshire, where the Mooneys and their three-year-old daughter Grace intended to make her one of the family.

But unlike thousands of children in Romanian institutions, there is a glimmer of hope: the Mooneys still want to adopt Monica.

Sale of baby mattresses halted by fume fears

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's leading high street chains suspended sales of baby mattresses yesterday after fresh claims linking fireproof chemicals with cot deaths. Officials at Boots ordered all mattresses to be removed from its Children's World stores after tests indicated that they could give off deadly fumes.

Bavstock, of Bow, east London, which supplies Bo Peep mattresses to independent baby shops and mail order firms, has also withdrawn 35,000 mattresses.

The alarm has been raised by *The Cook Report*, to be screened on ITV this evening. Three years ago medical experts dismissed links between babies and cot deaths. But the programme, which has commissioned tests on mattresses and tissue samples of victims, claims that bed wetting causes a fungal reaction in phosphorous and antimony, chemicals used by some manufacturers to flame-proof mattresses.

Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said the Government would look at the results of the study and consider seeking further advice from independent experts.



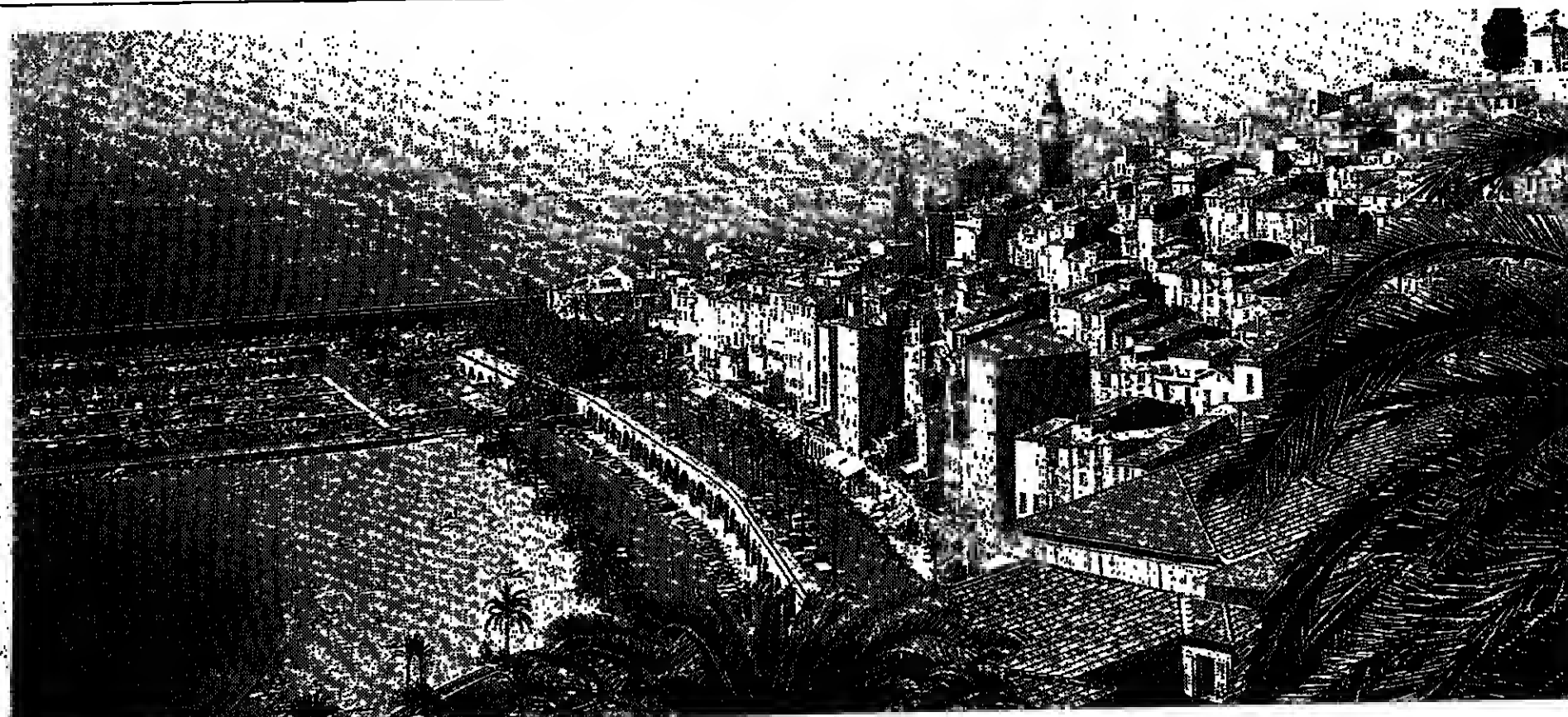
A detail from one of the Burne-Jones tapestries

Tapestries sell for £840,000

FOUR tapestries by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, the pre-Raphaelite artist, showing episodes from the search for the Holy Grail, sold beyond their £170,000 estimate to make £840,000 at Christie's in London yesterday. John Shaw writes.

All went to the anonymous buyer in New York. Nicola Redway, head of Christie's decorative arts department, said: "These tapestries represent one of the most remarkable creations of the Arts and Crafts Movement."

A black Balken Cross cut from the triplane flown by the Red Baron after his fatal crash in April 1918 failed to sell at a Phillips auction. The highest bid was £21,000 against an estimate of £30,000 to £40,000.



*Fly with us to
Edinburgh
and you'll end up
closer to the
Côte d'Azur.*

When you take a British Midland scheduled flight you can now pick up even more points in our 'Destinations' free flight programme.

In fact you might be surprised at just how fast these points add up. Especially if you're used to the free flight programmes offered by other airlines.

You might also be surprised at just how far you can get. As well as any British Midland destination in the UK or Europe, you can use your 'Destinations' points around the world, to get to any destination offered by United Airlines, Virgin, SAS and South African Airways.

So, as you relax on your flight to Edinburgh (or anywhere else on our network) you can congratulate yourself on the fact that you're well on your way to somewhere else.

And on choosing an airline that for service, value and innovation is simply second to none.

For a Diamond Club application form call 0332-854274/5, or contact your local travel agent.

British Midland
SECOND TO NONE

DC
Diamond Club
DESTINATIONS

EXAMPLE RETURN JOURNEYS REQUIRED TO CLAIM A FREE FLIGHT									
Heathrow to:	Paris or Amsterdam		Nice	New York		Bangkok	Johannesburg		
	EM	Other airlines	EM	Other airlines	EM	Other airlines	EM	Other airlines	
European Trips*	3	4	7	9	20	43	25	72	25
Domestic Trips**	5	9	12	22	32	114	41	192	42

*Including the Channel Islands. **At EuroClass Full or Executive fare. **At Executive, 3 Day Executive Return and Timesaver Plus fares. All information correct at time of going to press.



CUT THE COST OF YOUR HOME INSURANCE

One call to Hill House Hammond Direct is all it takes to get us searching for a better home insurance policy for you. We'll compare as many as 50 policies from leading insurance companies to find you the best possible value.

How much money could we save you? Typically, we could save you up to £100 and sometimes much much more.

Please call today for a free quotation. Why waste your time and money ringing different insurers when you can make just one call to us?

FREE PEN!

A SECOND FREE GIFT!

Hill House Hammond DIRECT

CALL 0800 828 824

From 9am-6pm Monday to Friday and 9am-1pm Saturday. Remember to quote WLD to receive your FREE PEN!

Network of cycle routes takes high road to health

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

PLANS for a national cycle network based around a route linking Dover and Inverness were unveiled yesterday.

The full network, connecting towns and cities across the country, will cover 5,000 miles. About 1,800 miles will be on disused railway lines, canal towpaths, forest tracks, parks, derelict land and other traffic-free paths. The rest will use specially designed cycle routes in cities and along minor roads.

The scheme, backed by industrialists, wildlife groups and celebrities, is aimed at encouraging up to a quarter of the nation out of their cars and on to their bikes. The project was launched by Sustrans, a charity that has built 300 miles of cycle routes in the past decade. It was warmly supported by Steven Norris, the transport minister.

Cycling was held up in a recent Royal Commission report on pollution as capable of making an important contribution to cleaner air. Mr Norris said bicycles had been the Cinderella of transport policy but promised to make

changes. "Until very recently policy was that cycling is quite dangerous. You might get knocked off your bicycle by lorries so it is better not to encourage it. I hope we can work closely with Sustrans to bring this network about. It is important to put cycling much higher up the agenda," he said.

The network is expected to cost £250 million, which Jeremy Paxman, the broadcaster and a keen cyclist, said

yesterday was "peanuts" when compared with the benefits. These are expected to include reduced air pollution, safer and more tranquil cities, a fall in heart disease and jobs in route construction.

John Grimshaw, director and chief engineer of Bristol-based Sustrans, said four million bicycles were sold each year in Britain, more than the number of cars, but most remained unused because there were too few safe and

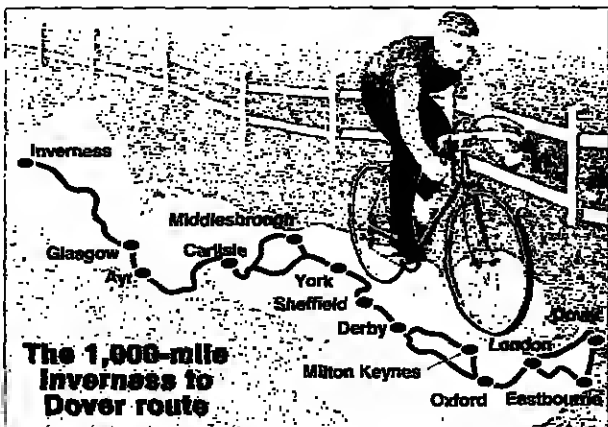
convenient cycle routes. Only 2.5 per cent of urban journeys are made by bicycle, compared with a third in The Netherlands, about a fifth in Denmark and 11 per cent in Germany.

Similar patterns are seen in the few British cities where councils have encouraged cycling. These include York, where 20 per cent of journeys are by bike, and Cambridge with 27 per cent.

The charity, which will be holding meetings with local authorities over the coming months, is seeking support from the Millennium Commission so that most of the routes can be built by the end of the century and the network completed by 2005.

Funding is also being sought from the Countryside Commission, the Sports Council and the European Commission.

Mr Norris called on councils to use his department's £1 billion supplementary grants scheme. "We have told local authorities they should encourage cycling in the bids they make," he said.



The 1,000-mile Inverness to Dover route



Frances McMenamin, a legal "star" of the series

Viewers become jury on TV trial

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

SENIOR judges and the public will have a chance to give their verdicts on the first experiment in allowing cameras into British courtrooms when the documentary series *The Trial* is screened tomorrow night.

The Lord Chancellor and the Master of the Rolls, as well as some 100 judges and lawyers, will attend a special preview tonight. The makers of the landmark BBC2 series, filmed in Scotland, have commissioned research to see if public understanding is enhanced from televised justice.

Elizabeth Clough, its executive director, said: "Hopefully people will understand more of what goes on and be less intimidated if they actually have to attend court." Nick Cadell, producer, said: "The Scottish judges have seen the programme extracts and are delighted. They don't have any problem with the content of it. They think we have made good television out of it."

Basing opinion on a short press preview yesterday, the

stars of the series will be the advocates, best seen in close discussion with their clients as they await the verdict.

There is the searing Scottish advocacy of Frances McMenamin, one of the few women to appear, who says the prosecution had portrayed her client, the defendant, as a "Rambo-like character. 'Look at him!'" she tells the jury, pointing to her client who is weeping quietly in the dock. "He could hardly hit his way through a paper bag."

The experiment in televised justice took place in Scotland with the blessing of the senior judge, Lord Hope, Lord President, and subject to strict rules and safeguards. But in England and Wales, cameras — whether film or press photography — are banned in courts or courtroom precincts under the Criminal Justice Act 1925.

It is the verdict of the English judiciary which will be crucial to whether there is legislation to allow a similar experiment here.

Parking permits 'a tax on the rich'

By Tim Jones, Transport Correspondent

A COUNCIL was accused yesterday of introducing a parking scheme to tax the rich and relieve pressure on its social security budget. Ten residents of Primrose Hill, northwest London, including Clare Lattimer, the former Downing Street caterer, alleged in the High Court that Camden Council was acting illegally in introducing a controlled parking zone near their homes.

Ms Lattimer said: "We have had a huge amount of complaints about the parking scheme. All I seem to have talked about in the past three years is parking."

Mark Cran, a barrister and Primrose Hill resident, claimed the council was unlawfully using its powers under the 1984 Road Traffic Regulations Act to raise substantial additional revenue "as a means of local taxation". He said Camden was anxious to make money out of the richer areas of the borough and had introduced schemes in Hampstead, Primrose Hill and Belsize Park to ease pressure on its social security budget.

Mr Cran said the majority of residents, who face a charge of £82 a year for a permit to park near their homes, wanted no controls at all.

Another resident, Alan King, an anaesthetist, said Camden Council had "completely failed" to show that the controlled zone was necessary. He said council parking patrols in the area had had an adverse effect on the "unique informal and bustling" atmosphere of Primrose Hill village. "Now it sometimes feels almost like a police state. The zone could be seen as a potential blank cheque for Camden Council."

The hearing continues.

High-kick karate man fell to death

A karate expert plunged to his death from a tower block when he lost his balance while practising and fell through an open window, an inquest was told.

The family of Scott Kell, 23, said he would jump into the air with one leg extended, but sometimes overbalanced. A neighbour in the flat below Kell's tenth-floor home in Salford heard him practising in July and then saw him fall past his window. Verdict: misadventure.

Killer fined

An overweight, disabled man who fatally injured a woman pedestrian when he knocked an automatic car into gear while struggling to get out was fined £1,000 at the Old Bailey. David Kaye, 73, a millionaire businessman from London, admitted causing death by dangerous driving.

Player in court

Stan Collymore, 23, the Nottingham Forest footballer, was committed for Crown Court trial by Cannock magistrates on charges of assaulting two men outside a nightclub.

PC mauled

A police dog handler was badly mauled while assessing an alsatian. PC Steve Johnson, a handler in Hampshire for 18 years, was bitten on the arms and face. The dog was killed.

£10,000 reward

A £10,000 reward was offered for information on attackers who set on fire Barry Bailey, 42. Mr Bailey, of Liverpool, suffered 80 per cent burns.

News in briefs

More than £1 billion was spent on women's underwear last year, while £770 million was spent on men's.

Patient wakes to call from glazing salesman

By A Staff Reporter

A CANCER patient in a private hospital room was more than surprised to receive a telephone call asking if he wanted replacement windows.

Rex Sheppard, of Felixstowe, Suffolk, who had recently had major surgery, listened with disbelief as the double-glazing salesman started delivering his patter. Then Mr Sheppard swore and cut him off.

"When my telephone rang I expected it to be a member of my family or a friend wishing me a speedy recovery. I was

absolutely amazed when this voice announced he was from Zenith Windows and asked if I wanted to see a representative," he said. "I had seven tubes sticking out of me and I didn't know if I was coming or going because I was in such discomfort. The last person I wanted to hear from was some pushy salesman."

Mr Sheppard, 61, subsequently received an apology from the firm. Trevor Carter, of Zenith Windows, said: "I can only assume it was a misdial by the canvasser or a wrongly routed call."

Your move?

Tell us: 0800 000 0000

Unit 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

PICK UP YOUR FREE GUIDE AT YOUR LOCAL COMET STORE.

What Hi-Fi? Magazine and Virgin 1215 have got together and selected the best of Comet's '94 Hi-Fi Collection. Read about how they have independently judged and reviewed Comet's sound systems to let you know what are the "Best Sounds of '94". Come into a Comet store today and pick up your free copy.



WINNER

PANASONIC RQV186
PERSONAL STEREO
Includes free speakers
"The RQV186 is a great sounding cassette player with a 2 band radio, 20 station presets and digital tuning" Best Sounds of '94
£49.99

UP TO 18 MONTHS
INTEREST FREE CREDIT
ON THE 'BEST SOUNDS
OF '94' AT COMET.

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

AIWA NSXD939
PRO-LOGIC 3 DISC MULTIPLAY
CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM
"Probably one of the best value Dolby Pro-Logic Hi-Fi systems on the market" Best Sounds of '94
£399.99

18 MONTHS
INTEREST FREE CREDIT

AIWA Z1100 3 DISC
MULTIPLAY CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM
"Full logic onto reverse cassette deck" "This chunky, solid looking remote controlled machine from Aiwa has the lot" Best Sounds of '94
£399.99

12 MONTHS

JVC S60R
CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM
"Here is one for those after a big and involving sound with a smooth but realistic portrayal of vocals" Best Sounds of '94
£599.99

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

PANASONIC SCCH40
CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM
"Amazingly good at the price — arguably the definitive sub-£400 choice" WHAT HI-FI? SUPPLEMENT SEPT '94
£399.99

★★★★ VERDICT

AIWA LK50
CD MICRO HI-FI SYSTEM
"Terrific value micro that performs way beyond its size and price" WHAT HI-FI? SUPPLEMENT SEPT '94
£299.99

9 MONTHS

SONY MHC650
CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM
"24 track programmable CD" "Full logic twin cassette deck" "High speed dubbing/continuous play" "Digital tuner" Best Sounds of '94
£379.99

THE COMET PRICE. The prices in Comet, Clough, Clough, Clough and Clough stores. The Comet Price (credit) from the lowest price every day. All items subject to availability. Interest Free Credit. 0% deposit down & 12 or 18 equal monthly payments. 9% APR. For example: Cash price £250, Credit 20% = £300. Amount of payments = 6 months @ £50. Total amount payable = £300. Cash price, interest free credit, or day after pay later payments require you to produce 2 methods of identification on application. Credit is subject to status and cannot be guaranteed. Comet is a limited liability company for the purpose of the Companies Act 1985. Comet Group Plc, George Street, M.A. Act for a written credit caution at your local store. Dolby BSC are registered trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation. Copying and playback of tapes may require permission under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act of 1988 and the Performance Protection Act. Dolby Pro-Logic and Surround Sound are registered trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation. ©1994 Hi-Fi September 1994.

هناك من الاله

'We are still steaming full ahead, just as Prince Albert was a century and a half ago'

A greatly profitable Exhibition

BY ALAN HAMMOND

PRINCE Albert's Great Exhibition in the Crystal Palace 143 years ago was so successful that the profits are still being distributed.

Squirrelled away in canny investments and topped up by rents, the £186,000 surplus recorded by the mighty display devised by Queen Victoria's consort for Imperial Britain's science, arts and manufactures has grown to a tidy nest-egg of £12 million. Last year its guardians handed out grants and fellowships worth nearly £800,000.

That such an improbable source of largesse is still being disbursed came to light when *The Times* reported on the Court and Social page this week the appointment of Rear Admiral Patrick Middleton as secretary of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851.

This prompted a reader, Myrtle Tarnham of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, to ask on the Letters page yesterday: "May I ask what the members of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 do?"

A fair question, given that the Crystal Palace was dismantled and moved from

Hyde Park to south London in 1852-53, and burnt to the ground in 1936. Rear Admiral Middleton, limbering up in his tiny suite of offices in a remote corner of Imperial College in preparation for his new role in January, was happy to explain: "We are still steaming full ahead towards excellence in science, industry and the arts, just as Prince Albert was a century and a half ago."

The 15 commissioners, whose president is the Duke of Edinburgh and whose meetings are chaired by Sir Denis Rooke, a former chairman of British Gas, annually hand

out 18 fellowships, each worth up to £14,000, to postgraduate science researchers, young industrial design students and promising young industrialists. They award a regular bursary to the Textile Conservation Centre at Hampton Court Palace.

Past beneficiaries of fellowships include Lord Rutherford, who split the atom, and Lord Penney, the father of Britain's atomic bomb. Eleven recipients of grants went on to win Nobel prizes and three to become president of the Royal Society.

"We get about 80 applications a year for our science

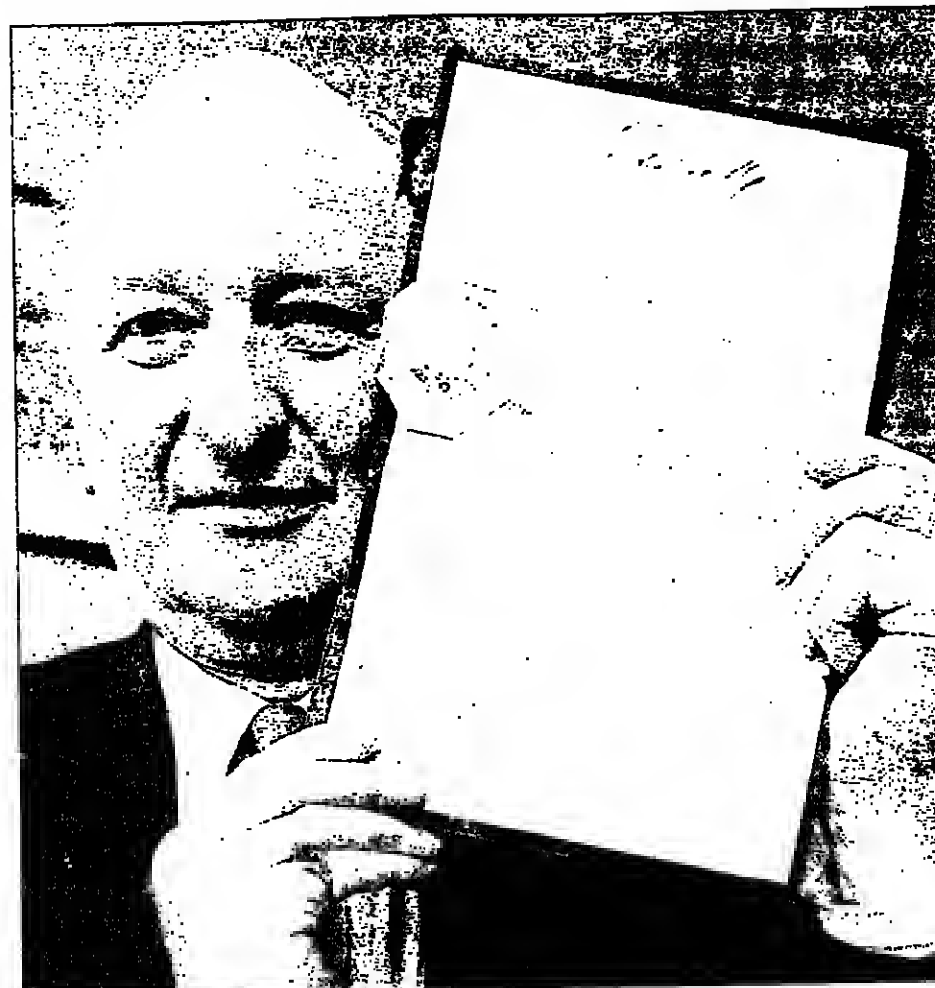
fellowships, which we have to whittle down to six," Rear Admiral Middleton said. "Industrial fellowships usually, but not exclusively, go to engineers with good degrees working in industry. We pay half their salary to enable them to undertake academic study."

Set up in 1846 to stage the exhibition, the commission subsequently acquired a revised charter that enjoined it "to increase the means of industrial education and extend the influence of science and art upon productive industry". One of its first and most perceptive acts was to

acquire 87 acres of South Kensington on which they built Albertopolis, that memorable estate of learned institutions which include the Victoria and Albert, Natural History, Science and Geological museums, Imperial College and the Royal Albert Hall.

Kensington rents, mainly from residential properties in the area of Exhibition Road, bring in £340,000 a year to top up the commission's investment income. Ground rent from the Albert Hall is one of the fund's lesser contributors: the land was let on a 999-year lease and is still rented at a peppercorn 5p a year. Recently the commission plumped out its funds by selling the Royal College of Organists' building next to the Albert Hall.

Prince Albert, who died of typhoid in 1861, would have been proud to know that his spirit was still alive in such a tangible form. He would also have managed a wry smile at the centenary effort, the 1951 Festival of Britain, which was not arranged by the Royal Commission. Although a popular success, attracting eight million visitors, it managed to lose £8.12 million in today's money, about £100 million.



Rear Admiral Middleton yesterday with Victoria's commission for the 1851 event

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Was the four high?

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

MANY players will know if say their jack is the highest card left in a suit, but will be lost if a smaller card has become master.

Follow the play in the suit in the diagram below in a No-Trump contract. Try just to study the North-South cards.

DUMMY
K 6 (A 8 5)

DECLARER
10 7 4 2

First round of suit: West leads the queen, dummy plays the king. East the ace and South plays small.

Second round of suit: East leads the eight, South plays the ten, West the jack and dummy follows.

Third round of suit (after East has won a trick in another suit): East leads the five. What should South do? (His holding is now seven-four.)

Answer: If you are a keen pip-watchers, you will know that the problem in the suit is now equivalent to this lay out:

DUMMY
A 2
DECLARER
K J

Obviously you would cover the queen with the king, and the position on the third round in the first diagram is no different — by covering the five with the seven, the declarer ensures that his four will be the master. When Irving Rose achieves the ultimate in suit lay-outs of this type, holding the three when the only other card outstanding is the two, he triumphantly leads out the three and announces "testing".

The technique for remembering the status of the pips comes with practice, but the first rule is that you must watch them all the time. This is what would go through my mind if I were declarer in the first diagram.

First round: the three highest have gone, so now the jack ten and nine are the critical cards. No sign of the three.

Second round: eight, ten and jack have gone, leaving the nine the highest outstanding, and my seven the second highest. The three is still missing.

Third round: Let me put this together, covering with the seven will force the nine, and that will leave my four master over the remaining card, the three.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's test

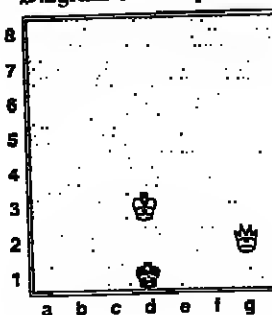
The crucial test for Garry Kasparov in the Intel Grand Prix in Paris came in his semi-final match against the Russian grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik. Kasparov was queen up for the final part of the game with seconds left on his clock to reach a checkmating position. Kramnik's mistakenly retreated his queen on move 20. This allowed Kasparov to pounce with a sequence that won a pawn.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik

Slav Defence

1 d4	d5	
2 c4	c6	
3 Nf3	Nf6	
4 Nc3	g6	
5 a4	Bf5	
6 e3	e6	
7 Bxc4	Bb4	
8 0-0	0-0	
9 Qe2	Bg6	
10 Ne5	Nb7	
11 Ng6	Qa5	
12 Rf1	Ra8	
13 h3		
14 Bc2	e5	
15 Be1	exd4	
16 Rxd4	Nb6	
17 Bb3	Rxd4	
18 exd4	Rd8	
19 Qd3	Nb5	
20 Bc2	Qc6	
21 a5	Qc7	
22 Nxd5	Nxd5	
23 Bxb4	Nxb4	
24 Qxg6	Nd5	
25 Qf5	g6	
26 Qf6	Qd6	
27 a6	b6	
28 g3	Kg7	
29 Rf1	Rf7	
30 Kg2	Nb4	
31 Qc3	Kg8	
32 Re1	Ra8	
33 Qe1	Kf8	
34 Qc3	Nxh6	
35 Qc4	Qd5+	
36 Qxd5	exd5	
37 Bxd5	Nb4	
38 Bc4	Nb6	
39 d5	Nc6	
40 Bb5	h6	

Diagram of final position



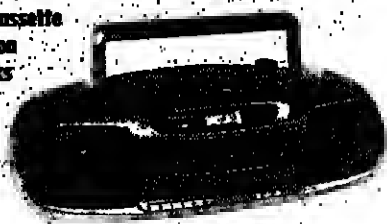
Winning Move, page 48

WINNER

PANASONIC RXDT401 CD STEREO RADIO CASSETTE

"This CD stereo radio cassette captured the top spot on two counts: good looks and superb sound!"

was £199.99
£179.99
SAVE £20



WINNER

JVC UX77 7 DISC MULTIPLAY

CD MICRO HI-FI SYSTEM

"This micro simply oozes quality!"

Tommy Vance
12 MONTHS
INTEREST FREE CREDIT*

£359.99



WINNER

SONY 'COMPACT' 490

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

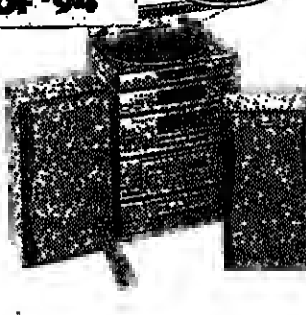
"This is an excellent all round package!"

was £499.99

12 MONTHS
INTEREST FREE CREDIT*

£479.99

SAVE £20



INDEPENDENTLY REVIEWED BY WHAT HI-FI? AND VIRGIN 1215.



AIWA NSX430

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

2 x 40 watts (RMS)

7 band spectrum analyser

Full logic double auto reverse

cassette deck

32 station presets

"What a winner. This system with its large digital display and moulded fascia looks the business!"

BEST SOUNDS OF '94

6 MONTHS
INTEREST
FREE CREDIT*

£329.99

SAVE £20

AIWA NSX430

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

2 x 40 watts (RMS)

7 band spectrum analyser

Full logic double auto reverse

cassette deck

32 station presets

"What a winner. This system with its large digital display and moulded fascia looks the business!"

BEST SOUNDS OF '94

6 MONTHS
INTEREST
FREE CREDIT*

£329.99

SAVE £20

AIWA NSX430

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

2 x 40 watts (RMS)

7 band spectrum analyser

Full logic double auto reverse

cassette deck

32 station presets

"What a winner. This system with its large digital display and moulded fascia looks the business!"

BEST SOUNDS OF '94

6 MONTHS
INTEREST
FREE CREDIT*

£329.99

SAVE £20

AIWA NSX430

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

2 x 40 watts (RMS)

7 band spectrum analyser

Full logic double auto reverse

cassette deck

32 station presets

"What a winner. This system with its large digital display and moulded fascia looks the business!"

BEST SOUNDS OF '94

6 MONTHS
INTEREST
FREE CREDIT*

£329.99

SAVE £20

AIWA NSX430

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

2 x 40 watts (RMS)

7 band spectrum analyser

Full logic double auto reverse

cassette deck

32 station presets

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED
The lowest price guaranteed with our Price Promise

SAVE £70

GOODMANS MD95

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

2 band tuner

3 band graphic equaliser

was £169.99

in-store price £119.99. Voucher price

£99.99

SAVE £70

GOODMANS MD95

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

2 band tuner

3 band graphic equaliser

was £169.99

in-store price £119.99. Voucher price

£99.99

SAVE £70

GOODMANS MD95

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

2 band tuner

3 band graphic equaliser

was £169.99

in-store price £119.99. Voucher price

£99.99

SAVE £70

GOODMANS MD95

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

2 band tuner

3 band graphic equaliser

was £169.99

in-store price £119.99. Voucher price

£99.99

SAVE £20

GARRARD GRX303

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

3 band graphic equaliser

Remote control, was £149.99

in-store price £139.99. Voucher price

£129.99

SAVE £20

GARRARD GRX303

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

3 band graphic equaliser

Remote control, was £149.99

in-store price £139.99. Voucher price

£129.99

SAVE £20

GARRARD GRX303

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

3 band graphic equaliser

Remote control, was £149.99

in-store price £139.99. Voucher price

£129.99

SAVE £20

GARRARD GRX303

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

3 band graphic equaliser

Remote control, was £149.99

in-store price £139.99. Voucher price

£129.99

SAVE £20

GARRARD GRX303

CD MINI HI-FI SYSTEM

3 band graphic equaliser

FREE ACCESSORIES VOUCHER BOOKLET WITH EVERY PURCHASE

MORE CHOICE, LOWEST PRICES, BETTER VALUE

COMET
YOU KNOW WHERE TO COME.

AFTER SALES SERVICE
Your satisfaction guaranteed by our specialist teams

OPEN 11AM-8PM WEEKDAYS
Most stores open Sunday
Ring Free on 0500 560570

Tourists who drowned had ignored danger sign

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE sole survivor of a holiday drowning tragedy in Cyprus in which his wife and best friends died admitted yesterday that they had seen a sign warning of the dangers of swimming in rough seas. Speaking from his hospital bed in the resort of Paphos, John Bryson, 55, said: "We just did not realise how dangerous it was until disaster struck."

Mr Bryson, a businessman from Langside in Glasgow, was kept in hospital overnight after the tragedy in which his wife Margot and their friends David and Moira Haldayne drowned. The four were halfway through a two-week

near the hotel earlier this year. Mr Skinner called yesterday for travel agents to warn holidaymakers of the dangers of swimming off Paphos.

"I was probably no more than waist high and dived through a wave. When I surfaced I felt myself being dragged down by the undercurrent which was like a whirlpool. It was like being sucked into the wave machine in a swimming pool."

Mr Skinner, of Woking, Surrey, was saved by a local youth who swam to his aid with a lifebelt. He heard later that a Swiss holidaymaker had drowned two weeks earlier. "Signs say rough seas can be dangerous. But it not the rough seas that are the danger, it's the undercurrent. I find it astonishing that travel agents don't warn people not to swim there or that areas of strong undercurrents are not marked by buoys."

Mr Bryson, a former Glasgow policeman, was too distraught to go into details yesterday but police who interviewed him said that Mr Haldayne got into trouble first. He then called for help and Mr Bryson plunged into the sea. When both realised the alarming strength of the undercurrents, they shouted warnings to their wives to stay on the beach, but the women insisted on trying to help.

"No one should have been swimming in that weather," a Paphos police officer said. "There were two signs on the beach warning of danger, and the people had been advised by hotel staff to stay out of the sea and use the hotel pool. Just one look at the water should have been enough. They should listen to the Cypriots, who never swim in winter."

Barry Meadows, a British resident in Chlorakas, agreed that the signs should be more prominent but said it should have been obvious to anyone that it was too dangerous to swim. "They must have been bonkers to go out in such rough seas," he said.

holiday at a luxury hotel at Chlorakas near Paphos. Mr Bryson's daughter was at his bedside last night after flying from Glasgow.

It was the worst incident of its kind in Cyprus for many years and triggered a row over what advice holidaymakers should be given about swimming in winter. Strong winds and high waves make the sea look rough but the greatest danger comes from the powerful undercurrents that can drag down even the most skilled of swimmers.

A British banker, Roger Skinner, 36, from Woking, Surrey, said he had almost drowned on the same beach



David Haldayne, who died with his wife



Marie and Andrew Moore with their son Ross, who had a steel rod sticking out of his arm because of the delay

Hospital apology over cancer boy's forgotten surgery

By PAUL WILKINSON

COMMUNICATION failures among hospital officials forced a six-year-old cancer victim to suffer a needless five-month wait in agony for an operation, an inquiry has disclosed.

Ross Moore could have had an operation last April to remove steel rods temporarily inserted in his arm to replace a bone destroyed by a tumour. But no one at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, remembered to ask South Tyne health authority for the money to pay for it. When the operation was finally carried out in September, one of the rods was protruding through Ross's skin.

Yesterday Barrie Dowd, the hospital's chief executive, apologised to Ross's parents Andrew and Marie in person. He said later: "We recognise the distress and anxiety caused to him and his parents. We are particularly distressed because of the delays. We have been working with him and his family since he was three. The delays are regrettable due to poor internal co-ordination and failures in communications arising in part from the unique nature of his case."

"We have already put in place improvements to procedures to ensure similar problems never recur and have also changed certain work responsibilities. Im-

portant lessons have been learnt from Ross's case."

The operation originally had been scheduled for November last year, but was postponed because of lack of money. The two-month inquiry found that managers did not apply for funding for the operation until August even though it became available in April. The operation finally took place on September 26, nearly 11 months after the original date.

Mrs Moore, 29, from Gateshead, said: "It was a catalogue of errors which led to delays. They accepted we should never have gone through what we did. We were led to believe the operation would take place far earlier than it ever did. Everything should have been done in April but didn't."

"However, it was refreshing when we went to the hospital this week how they fully accepted what we had said in the first place. When we first made the complaint they didn't want to accept that what we were saying was actually true. They do now."

Ross recovered well from the operation, which replaced the rods with an artificial bone, and can move his right arm for the first time in more than three years. Mrs Moore, who also has a daughter aged 2, said: "Every day he gets more and more confident. It will never be perfect but day by day things are improving."

Hebrideans look to Brussels for £6m bridge

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

AUTHORITIES governing the remote Scottish island of Scalpay, which has fewer than 400 inhabitants, are supporting proposals to build a £6 million bridge linking it to its nearest island neighbour.

The bridge between Scalpay and Harris in the Outer Hebrides would only span 180 yards of water, a crossing that takes ten minutes by ferry. Islanders are optimistic that funding will come from the European Union. Last year the Highlands and Islands were granted Objective One

status because they were among the poorest regions in Europe. The area will receive £250 million over six years.

The existing Caledonian MacBrayne six-car ferry which runs ten times a day is heavily subsidised and the secondary school on the island is believed to be Scotland's most expensive, costing £H.000 a year for each of its six pupils.

Yesterday the planning committee of the Western Isles Council approved the proposal. Full planning permission is not expected to be granted by the council until the new year.

Islanders back the bridge plan. "The ferry service is very good but a bridge

would allow us to come and go as we please," one said. At present the last ferry is at 6.15pm, two hours later on a Friday. Nearly all the employed people on the island use the ferry to get to work.

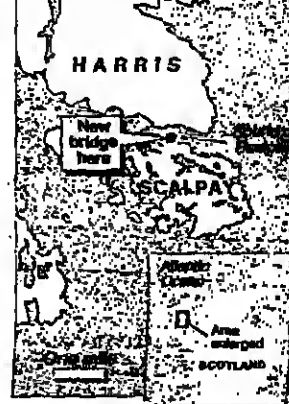
Supporters of the bridge deny it is simply a case of spending the money because it is there. Donald McDonald, a local councillor, insists it makes economic sense. He says the services on the island cost significantly more than on Lewis and Harris — about £1 million a year for the island and its tiny population.

"It's a horrendous cost," he says, "and what have we got to show for it?"

Huge depopulation and a bleak future for our children."

Islanders also point to the example of Vatsary in the Western Isles where a £3.75 million causeway to the island of Barra has led to young families returning to Vatsary from Barra and houses being built. Old homes are being renovated because it is possible to transport materials.

Colin Paterson, managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne, says his company is happy running the ferry service to Scalpay but adds: "I can't say that it is our most profitable service. If they want a bridge then we wish them luck."



Plain Blue Baubles
2 large, 3 medium or 4 small
Per cluster 99p

Festive Ceramic Hanging Moon Tree Decoration £1.29

Festive Handmade Glass Gold Scroll Design Baubles Box of 6 £4.49

Blue and Gold Hand-Tied Bows Card of 4 £2.49

Homebase for when you're dreaming of a bright Christmas.

Blue and Gold Starred Tinsel £1.79

Astral Blue and Gold Pillar Candle £2.99

Festive Hanging Cherub Tree Decoration £1.29

Astral Blue and Gold Decorative Ribbon £1.99

Good ideas cost less at Homebase.

Monday-Thursday 8.30am-8pm Friday 8.30am-9pm Saturday 8am-8pm Sunday 10am-4pm
All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. *Except Watton-on-Thames which closes 8pm Friday and 6pm Saturday.

If you're paying too much interest on your existing credit card, get a new one.

It's a fact. 99% of all people who leave a balance outstanding each month on their credit card or store card will save money by transferring their balances to the new Royal Bank MasterCard — just compare the rates.

Act now and start benefiting from no annual fee (guaranteed for life); 1.25% per month (16% APR) on regular balances and an amazing 1.14% per month (14.5% APR) on balances over £1,000. Isn't that a good idea from The Royal Bank of Scotland?

We will arrange to transfer your balance at no cost. It couldn't be easier, simply complete a short form and we'll do the rest. The sooner you call, the sooner you'll start saving.

CALL FREE NOW ON
0800 16 16 16
Ext. 357
THE SOONER YOU CALL,
THE SOONER YOU'LL
START SAVING.

COMPARISON OF INTEREST RATES

CARD	MONTHLY RATE	ANNUAL FEE	APR PURCHASES	MASTERCARD SAVINGS
New Royal Bank of Scotland MasterCard (balances of £1,000 and over)	1.14%	£0	14.5%	
Barclays Visa	1.585%	£10	21.9%	£340.40
Lloyds Access	1.5%	£12	21%	£283.20
Midland Access	1.595%	£12	22.3%	£351.60
NatWest Access	1.6%	£12	22.4%	£355.20

Please send me full details on the new low interest, no annual fee MasterCard NOW

To: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, FREEPOST, RM1011, Southend-on-Sea, ESSEX SSO 7BR. I would like more information about the new Royal Bank MasterCard (Please use block capitals)

Surname _____ Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

First Name _____ Other Initials _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Home Telephone _____ 0358

Are you an existing Royal Bank of Scotland Access or Visa Cardholder? Yes ☐ No ☐

The Royal Bank of Scotland

NOTE: CREDIT FACILITIES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THEM ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. SUBJECT TO STATUS, THE CARDHOLDER IS REQUIRED TO MAKE MONTHLY PAYMENTS WITHIN 21 DAYS OF STATEMENT DATE OR AT LEAST THE MINIMUM SUM SPECIFIED ON THE STATEMENT, WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN 1% OF THE OUTSTANDING BALANCE OR £5, WHICHEVER IS THE GREATER, OR THE FULL AMOUNT DUE IF LESS THAN £5. INTEREST IS APPLIED FROM THE DATE THE TRANSACTION IS APPLIED TO THE ACCOUNT. THE APR'S MAY BE SUBJECT TO VARIATION. CURRENT INTEREST RATE AT 1 NOVEMBER 1994. * THE SAVING THAT CAN BE EXPECTED BY TRANSFERRING A BALANCE OF £5,000 TO THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND MASTERCARD AND MAINTAINING THAT BALANCE FOR 2 YEARS. The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB. Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

British social attitudes

Voters want higher taxes and public spending

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is in danger of losing votes if it cuts taxes, according to the latest survey of British social attitudes. Even a majority of Conservatives now want to see higher taxes and more spending on the welfare state.

The report shows that the number prepared to pay more to finance health, education and social benefits almost doubled between 1983 and 1993. Over the same period, the number happy to leave things as they are nearly halved and only 4 per cent of the survey still want tax cuts.

The most marked change was among Conservative voters. At the beginning of the period, roughly a quarter were prepared to pay more to increase welfare spending. That group has now risen to 55 per cent.

"What has certainly widened is the distance between the Conservative Party's official position on the issue and the views of their supporters," the report says. "On these readings the call for higher taxes and more social spending is one of the consensus issues of British politics. Only the Government and a reducing minority of the electorate appear to disagree."

The report says there is little evidence for the view that

people secretly accept Conservative arguments against welfare expenditure objectives. Detailed questioning of the 3,600 people surveyed "fails to suggest that a majority of the public believes that welfare spending is either wasteful or that it acts as a disincentive".

Twice as many think that unemployment benefit is too low and causes hardship than those who believe that benefit is too high and discourages people from finding a job. Only 1 per cent think that

those drawing the dole have more than enough to live on, even though a large majority think that unemployment benefit is higher than it actually is.

The report shows, however, that support for greater welfare spending is not driven more by selfishness than altruism. People want more money for services they all expect to use, such as health, education and pensions. Unemployment benefit, defence and the arts all come much lower down. At the same time

the large real increase in health spending before the 1992 election seems to have reduced the proportion who regard that as a priority, with 60 per cent now putting it at the top of the list compared with 70 per cent in 1990. Over the same period the number who think more should go to helping industry has gone up from 6 per cent to 14 per cent.

Government attempts to prepare public opinion for a change away from reliance on the welfare state are having little success. The survey finds that only 37 per cent are against the idea of increasing national insurance contributions to pay for higher pensions and 80 per cent think either the Government should be mainly responsible for paying them or should do so jointly with employers. Only a quarter felt that those with private incomes should have their state pension reduced.

The report thinks it may be possible to winnow some benefits and to do more to tackle abuse. However "any perceived move against the welfare state as a whole runs the risk of incurring the wrath of the electorate".

British Attitudes: the 11th report, Social and Community Planning Research (Dartmouth Publishing, £15)

OUT OF LOVE

Winning the National Lottery will not make much difference — 74 per cent of employees say they would work even if they had no financial need.

8 per cent of the population travel only by public transport but 59 per cent never travel by train and 50 per cent never board a bus.

64 per cent think money should be spent on improving public transport against 34 per cent who want better roads.

Housing the homeless is the most important cause for raising money say 77 per cent. Kidney machines (68 per cent) are second.

The death penalty is supported by 65 per cent while 85 per cent want stiffer sentences generally.

Support is growing for school exams. Formal tests are backed by 53 per cent compared with 44 per cent in 1987.

Three quarters of the population make an effort, at least sometimes, to sort recyclable materials such as glass and paper. 5 per cent refuse to eat meat on moral or environmental grounds. Among car drivers, 41 per cent never cut back on trips for environmental reasons.

Tabloids challenge Highland tradition

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A NEWSPAPER war has broken out in the West Highlands where the 134-year-old *Oban Times* is being challenged by two new rivals, *The Oban Star* and *The Fort William Star*.

The new weekly papers were launched yesterday by Moira Kerr, former editor of the *Oban Times*, who has taken her former employer to an industrial tribunal claiming constructive dismissal. A judgment is expected in the new year.

Mrs Kerr, 37, said she had not been motivated by revenge. "I want to live in the West Highlands and I want to edit a paper. The only way I can do that is to start up my own." But Howard Bennett, owner of the *Oban Times*, said that the market could support only one paper.

The first edition of the brass tabloids is being given away and advertisers have been offered cut-price rates. The normal price will be 30p. The broadsheet *Oban Times* has a cover price of 40p but that may be cut if circulation falls.

Mr Bennett said that his paper did not take its readers for granted. "We will respond to the challenge, but I cannot say yet what that response will be."



Moira Kerr, the editor who is competing against her former employer

Children to join parents in pubs

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN are to be allowed into a new type of public house next year as part of the Government's overhaul of the licensing and gaming laws and the 200-year-old Sunday Observance Act.

Ministers are also considering allowing pubs to open all day on Sunday, but a plan for an extra hour of drinking on Friday and Saturday evenings is expected to be dropped.

Pubs will be allowed to admit under-16s accompanied by an adult until 9pm under a system of children's certificates. These will be granted by magistrates to pubs with rooms that have a family atmosphere and a bar where food and non-alcoholic drinks are served.

Michael Forsyth, a Home Office minister, said: "Adults will be able to enjoy a drink in the company of their families. Children are likely to benefit from seeing sensible drinking in a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere." The change, first proposed in March 1993, seeks to build on the experi-

ence in Scotland, where more than a thousand children's certificates have been granted with few problems. Mr Forsyth's announcement was welcomed by brewers and the tourist industry, which have been pressing for continental-style licensing laws.

Mr Forsyth said that there was strong hostility to an extra hour of drinking on Friday and Saturday evenings. "We have to balance the interests of the consumer alongside any problems that might arise for people living in residential areas, and also we have to think about the impact on police resources."

The Government is also planning to ease controls on greyhound racing and is reviewing regulations on casinos, bingo and gaming machines. An overhaul of the 1780 Sunday Observance Act is expected to allow discotheques to open on Sundays. "The industry is eager for change because Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on a Sunday next year."

Dixons

UP TO 18 MONTHS 0% INTEREST ON ALL NICAM STEREO VIDEO

HITACHI VTF150 4 HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO WITH BUILT-IN VIDEOPLUS™

- NICAM stereo for superb stereo sound.
- Extended play with 4 heads for superb picture quality.
- Index search and shuttle dial for ease of use.
- Digital auto-tracking and on-screen displays.

£399.99

20% DEPOSIT & 18 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £17.78

CONTROL PLUS MULTI-FUNCTION REMOTE CONTROL

- Replaces lost or broken remote controls for TV, video, satellite and cable equipment.
- Built-in VideoPlus™ - the easiest programming ever on your existing video.

£59.99

RECOMMENDED BY WHAT VIDEO MAGAZINE AS A BEST BUY

SAVE UP TO £50 ON TOP BRAND NICAM VIDEO

GOLDSTAR R-C 7031 EXTENDED PLAY NICAM VIDEO WITH VIDEOPLUS™

- Extended play doubles recording and playback time. Was £329.99. SAVE £30.

£299.99

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £26.67

NEW SHARP VCH92 4 HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO WITH VIDEOPLUS™

- VideoPlus™ for the easiest programming ever.
- NICAM stereo for superb stereo sound.

£399.99

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £33.33

PANASONIC NVHD90 4 HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO WITH VIDEOPLUS™

- NICAM stereo for superb stereo sound.
- Extended play facility.
- TV compatible remote control.
- VideoPlus™ for the easiest programming ever.

£429.99

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £36.67

JVC HRJ610 4 HEAD EXTENDED PLAY NICAM STEREO VIDEO WITH VIDEOPLUS™

- 4 heads for superb picture quality.
- Jog shuttle dial for frame-by-frame control.
- Instant review function automatically turns video on, rewinds and starts playback.

£399.99

20% DEPOSIT & 9 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £35.56

MITSUBISHI HS450 4 HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO WITH BUILT-IN VIDEOPLUS™

- 4 head system for superb picture quality.
- VideoPlus™ for the easiest programming ever.
- Extended play doubles recording and playback time.

£499.99

20% DEPOSIT & 12 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £33.33

Dixons CHRISTMAS DEALS

OVER 350 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE. TEL: 081-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

BRITAIN'S LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

YOUR CHANCE TO BE IN THE MOVIES

CHASING DEER

"It will be your blood...and break your heart"

Chasing the Deer was the most spectacular British nature film of 1994. In 1995, the same production team intends to produce a thrilling new version of "Machibh", which will be directed by Brian Blessed and "The Bruce" - the story of Scotland's warrior king. This is your chance to own a part in movie history.

The Bruce Pictures Plc will issue a prospectus on 12th November 1994 with an offer for subscription of up to 1,000 New Shares of £1,000 each at a price of £1,000 per share. Investors will be entitled to:

- A Share in any profits of the films.
- The opportunity to appear as an extra in the films.
- Your name in the credits of the films.
- The chance to see how the film business works from the inside.

For a prospectus ring 011 536 1062 now or till in the coupon below and post to The Bruce Pictures Plc, 22 Firth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3TH.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DAYTIME TEL NO _____

EVENING TEL NO _____

Major expects to have finance battle won by Christmas

By Nicholas Wood
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE

MINISTERS hope to have the Bill to increase Britain's contribution to Brussels through its perilous Commons passage by Christmas.

The Government's determination to forge ahead with the measure, the most contentious in the Queen's Speech, was made clear yesterday as John Major and his senior Cabinet colleagues said that votes on the European Finance Bill would be treated as an issue of confidence in the Government.

The legislation, the target of intense scrutiny by ministers and

Euro-sceptic backbenchers, was heralded by a single bland paragraph in the speech: "Legislation will be introduced to give force to the changes following the agreement at the Edinburgh European Council."

Senior ministers said that they expected a Bill of no more than two or three clauses amending Section 1 (2) of the European Communities Act 1972. Like the Maastricht treaty, it will be debated on the floor of the House.

They said that they regarded the measure, which stems from a treaty

agreed at the Edinburgh Euro-summit in 1992, as essential to the Government's programme as its Finance Bill giving effect to the Budget at the end of the month.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and the Treasury again rejected claims by Euro-sceptic Tories that the Bill would cost British taxpayers an extra £700 million for the next two years. Mr Clarke said the sceptics' figures were "absurd" and that the full cost of the budgetary changes by the end of the decade would be about £250 million a year.

The annual budget of the European Union, most of which is spent on agricultural subsidies, stands at

1.2 per cent of total EU gross national product or about £55 billion. The deal reached in Edinburgh, which should be passed into law across the Community by January, raises this ceiling in stages to 1.27 per cent by 1999. If Britain and other EU states were to miss the deadline the Community would have to resort to emergency funding measures until all countries have ratified the deal.

The Treasury said that on present assumptions about growth rates and inflation, the Edinburgh agreement would give the Community an extra £3.3 billion by 1999. The additional net cost to Britain would

rise to about £259 million a year by 1999, about one tenth of 1 per cent of public spending.

The Treasury also made clear that the Edinburgh agreement will modify the rules that determine how much each member state pays to Brussels. The VAT element in the equation is being reduced and greater importance is being placed on GNP or overall national wealth. But the UK abatement, the rebate won by Baroness Thatcher in 1984, which has so far saved Britain £16 billion, would be unaffected.

A separate letter from Mr Clarke to Tory MPs gives more figures. It says that the Edinburgh deal pro-

vides for an average increase in EU spending of 3.3 per cent a year in real terms from 1992-99. This is lower than the corresponding increase of 5.3 per cent a year agreed at the last review covering the period 1987-92. The 1.27 per cent ceiling is lower than the 1.37 per cent originally advocated by the European Commission.

Assuming EU GNP and inflation rise by 2.5 per cent a year, under the present formula the Brussels budget would rise from £55.1 billion in 1995 to £67.4 billion in 1999. The new arrangements foreshadow a rise from £55.5 billion in 1995 to £71.4 billion in 1999.

Improved rights dismissed as half measure

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE DISABLED

A BILL aimed at improving the rights of the disabled provoked anger last night from campaigning groups that say it does not go far enough.

Ministers already fear that the Disability Bill will be one of the most difficult pieces of legislation to get through the new session. They hope they have included enough measures to avert a backbench rebellion but MPs served warning yesterday that they would oppose legislation that did not give the disabled full rights against all forms of discrimination.

The Government was condemned by campaigners earlier this year for blocking a Private Member's Bill that outlawed discrimination. Yesterday the Prime Minister gave scant details of the Bill, suggesting only that it would be a very narrowly drawn and concentrate mainly on employment rights. It is understood that Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, argued for a modest amount of extra spending for the Bill — about £100 million — suggesting that more expensive proposals had been dropped.

The Treasury is known to have been opposed to any proposals imposing a hefty cost on businesses and industry, such as capital alterations. John Major made clear in the Commons that discrimination against disabled employees would be illegal, and that the disabled would be given a legal right of access to goods and services. He also announced the setting up of a national disability council to monitor discrimination.

However, he did not refer to legislation covering building regulations, transport or education. It is understood that these could form part of a wider package of measures, but would not be backed by primary legislation. It is also said that a programme to adapt public transport would be phased in over more than a decade, and apply only to new vehicles.

Alf Morris, Labour MP for Wythenshawe and a campaigner for the disabled, warned ministers that any half-measures would be fiercely opposed by disabled people. "Disabled people are in no mood for half or even quarter measures."

Lord Ashley, co-chairman of the All-Party Disabling Group, dismissed the proposals as "belated, limited and inadequate" and vowed to introduce a Bill in the Lords.

Labour ridicules 'dithering Tories riven by factions'

By Jonathan Prynn and Alice Thomson

DEBATE

TONY BLAIR mocked Cabinet ministers yesterday for turning the European Union Finance Bill into a confidence issue and said it proved that John Major was "almost incapable of delivering good government".

The Labour leader accused the Tories of being so riven by factions and "buffeted by one day's headlines to the next" that they could no longer address the interests of the country.

"It has surely come to something when a Government can only secure the passage of its own legislative programme by threatening its own demise with a confidence vote," he said. "I think we can be sure they don't dare call an election. But what a party and the Government."

Opening six days of debate on the Queen's Speech, Mr Blair told the House that the Government's programme for the new session of Parliament showed the central quandary facing the Tories: "Whether to praise Thatcherism or to bury it." Four years after the departure of Baroness Thatcher they still could not decide, he said. "The result is dogma tempered only by dithering."

Mr Blair also ridiculed the Government's indecision over the Post Office. One faction of Tory MPs had demanded Post Office privatisation and it had become the centrepiece of the Queen's Speech. "Then another faction rebels, so it's removed. Then the first faction mounts another rebellion and ministers fall over themselves to proclaim their sorrow and anger at this omission from the Queen's Speech."

Millions of people were desperate for changes in the Child Support Agency, Mr Blair said. "Currently this is a complete shambles causing misery to tens of thousands of families and I hope very much

that some radical reform of that agency is on the agenda in the coming year."

He warned that the Government would decide future tax cuts "not on the state of the economy, but on the state of the Tory party".

He said people wanted an end to the "laissez-faire economics and the boom and bust of the past 15 years" and yearned for a new public-private, management-employee partnership, industrial investment, stability, strong public services, an attack on



Blair: "Tories afraid to call a general election"

poverty and unemployment and safe communities. Responding to Mr Blair's speech, Mr Major told MPs his goals of low inflation, lasting growth, better quality of life, higher standards of public service and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. They remained "at the centre of my objectives for this year and for the future".

He launched a robust defence of the Government's economic record, attacking Labour frontbenchers for spreading gloom and misery about the prospects for the recovery. Instead of investment flooding out of Britain as

forecast by Gordon Brown, it was pouring into the country, "up and down the land". It was "a vote of confidence in this country's future and this Government's management of the economy".

Mr Major mocked Labour frontbench "square pegs in round holes" for espousing policies they had previously passionately opposed. Dawn Primarolo, a recent recruit to Labour's Treasury front bench, had recently emphasised the importance of tax collection but had once urged people to break the law by refusing to pay their community charge.

On Northern Ireland, Mr Major said good progress had been made by the British and Irish governments on the framework document on the future of the province. The document would propose a framework for cross-border structures but would rule out joint authority by the two governments of any new bodies.

For the Liberal Democrats, Paddy Ashdown said the timid legislative programme outlined in the Queen's Speech marked "the beginning of the end of the road" for the Government. "What we are seeing are the last splutterings of an ideology that has run out of ideas, energy and steam." Mr Ashdown said the Government was not master of events, but at the mercy of them. "It is led by a Prime Minister to whom things happen, rather than one who makes things happen."

He described Mr Major as "a weak Prime Minister who cannot command a willful cabinet or re-unite a divided party... heading a Government that has lost both the trust of the nation and confidence in itself."

Peter Riddell, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Leniency for users of cannabis

SCOTLAND

THE Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill will give the courts tough new powers to deal with offences which have been committed on bail but it will show leniency towards first time cannabis users (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Instead of a court appearance and a criminal record, people caught using the drug are likely to pay a fiscal fine of about £40 under a scheme similar to parking tickets. If caught a second time they will face the courts and a tougher sentence. The fiscal fine scheme will be extended to other offences in an attempt to cut the number of court cases.

The courts are likely to be given powers to increase by six months sentences for offences carried out on bail and fines for breaching bail will be increased from £200 to £1,000.

Labour to challenge end of domestic monopoly

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

GAS

PRIVATE companies will compete with British Gas to supply 18 million homes. But the proposal is expected to face a tough parliamentary ride as Labour seizes upon warnings that many consumers could be worse off under a privatised regime.

A recent study by the independent Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University concluded that the overall balance of benefits, costs and risks was "unfavourable" to further extension of competition. Independent suppliers, however, claim that they can cut bills by an average of 10 per cent.

Since the privatisation of British Gas in 1987, the regulator Ofgas has gradually opened up the market to competitors. Nearly half of the gas used by factories and power plants is now sold by

independent suppliers, who pay British Gas a fee to use its pipelines.

After a study by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and extensive consultation, the Government has decided to go ahead with a Bill that will progressively open up the household market. Under the latest proposals, independent companies will be able to compete for the business of half a million homes in a trial area in 1996. A further 1.5 million homes will be brought into the trial the next year, with competition extended nationwide in 1998.

The Trade and Industry Department said the aim was to allow the industry to develop computer systems and controls that will ensure gas

entering the system keeps pace with demand. There are big fluctuations caused by weather changes.

British Gas, which yesterday announced a 23.6 per cent profit rise for the first nine months of the year, to £748 million, has already begun to restructure its business in preparation for the Bill.

Rivals last night insisted that customers would benefit. Norman Ellis, chief executive of Kinetica, forecast total savings to households of £500 million a year, and said: "the smaller users, the elderly and disadvantaged, could benefit most from the change." Critics say, however, that similar reductions would be achieved under the strict formula that governs British Gas prices.

Costcutting and Pennington, page 27

Alternative dole to save £200m

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

UNEMPLOYED

THE Government estimates that its Jobseeker's Allowance will save up to £200 million a year. But Labour says 90,000 unemployed will lose benefit. When the allowance starts in April 1996, unemployed people will be entitled to only six months' benefit without means-testing rather than the 12 months provided now by unemployment benefit. The allowance will combine the benefit, at present £45 a week, with income support, which varies according to means and which can be claimed when benefit entitlement expires.

The Jobseeker's Allowance Bill will require the unemployed actively to seek work before they receive the allowance. They will have to sign a Jobseeker's Agreement contracting them to take specified

steps. Claimants working part-time will be able to build up a bonus of up to £1,000 payable when they find a full-time job.

The Government says that spending on benefits for the unemployed has grown at a rate of 7 per cent since 1979. The allowance will target those who need the money most and will be a cheaper, more efficient system, it says.

Labour says 90,000 people will lose their benefit and another 150,000 will become means-tested. Donald Dewar, its social security spokesman, said that cutting the period for untested benefit from 12 to six months was "nothing less than a breach of faith".

Ministers promise justice watchdog

LEGAL REFORM

THE Government pledged itself yesterday to creating an independent review body to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice in line with the proposals of last year's Royal Commission on Criminal Justice (Frances Gibb writes).

But the unexpected announcement was not directly mentioned in the Queen's Speech and there were fears that the reform might not receive parliamentary time.

Ministers agreed to adopt the measure at the eleventh hour after the cancellation of privatisation plans. The Home Office said the Gov-

ernment intended to introduce the Bill later this session "in the expectation that the wide support there is for this measure throughout the House will ensure its swift passage".

The new body, whose members would be appointed by the Queen on advice from the Prime Minister, would refer convictions and sentences to the courts without any recommendation, leaving the judges as final arbiters. It would commission investigations by police forces.

1

mobile network charges you

1

second for every

1

second used. That

is Orange of course.

orange

PLEASE CALL 0800 286 286

Greater supervision for schizophrenics

Controls promised to protect public from mentally ill

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

TIGHTER safeguards to protect the public from schizophrenics who fail to take their drugs after release from mental hospital are set out in a new Mental Health Bill.

The move is a response to a series of random killings by people with schizophrenia which have caused widespread public alarm. They include the cases of Christopher Clunis, who stabbed Jonathan Zito to death on a London underground platform, and Ben Silcock, who was badly mauled after jumping into the lion's den at London Zoo.

The new Bill would tighten control over mentally ill patients but does not reverse the community care policy. Supervised discharge would allow doctors to recall a patient to hospital if they failed to take their treatment after discharge into the community. However, mental health organisations and civil liberties

groups are likely to oppose the move. The Tory-dominated Commons health select committee warned last year after a six-month inquiry that it would give the state unacceptable powers over its citizens and would be legally and ethically unworkable.

Ministers believe that public alarm is sufficiently high to overcome objections from civil liberties groups. An inquiry supported by the health department last August traced 34 killings by mental patients over 18 months. In most cases patients who had been well on discharge rapidly deteriorated after failing to take their medication and losing contact with health and social workers.

Under supervised discharge, a patient would be required to abide by a care plan drawn up when they left

hospital. They would be allocated a named key worker, probably a community psychiatric nurse, who would monitor their treatment. Failure to comply would trigger an immediate review of their case and could lead to their being recalled to hospital.

The Bill also extends from six months to one year the period during which patients given extended leave can be recalled to hospital and closes a loophole which meant hospitals were powerless to detain patients who had absconded, if they had been missing for more than 28 days.

The new powers are in addition to the supervision registers for the severely mentally ill which health authorities were required to set up by last month. The registers, containing details of about 3,000 patients living in the community who are considered potentially dangerous to themselves or others, are intended to ensure they get priority from health and social services. However they have been criticised for diverting resources from the remainder of the 750,000 mentally ill people cared for in the community and for adding to the stigma suffered by mentally ill people.

The Commons health select committee warned last year that there may be "no middle ground between compulsory detention and freedom in the community". The committee of MPs was concerned that saying a patient is well enough to leave hospital but not well enough to live independently could be open to abuse. They said it would be impossible for patients to consent to the arrangement because "consent under the threat of duress cannot be judged to be true consent".

Doctors who are the subject of a complaint about their performance would be assessed locally in private by a committee of two doctors and a lay assessor. It would recommend remedial action, such as a period of retraining, drugs or mental illness, is affecting a doctor's work.

In 1993-94 the council received 1,626 complaints but was unable to say how many would have fallen under the new performance procedure.

The Bill, proposed 18 months ago by the GMC after criticism that it was failing to monitor the profession properly, is intended to bridge the gap in the council's powers.

Doctors who are the subject of a complaint about their performance would be assessed locally in private by a committee of two doctors and a lay assessor. It would recommend remedial action, such as a period of retraining,

Bad doctors will be investigated

BY OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest change in the powers of the General Medical Council since it was set up in 1858 will be that it will be able to deal with incompetent doctors.

The Medical Act (Amendment) Bill will allow the doctors' disciplinary body to investigate cases where a doctor's standard of work is so poor as to put patients at risk. The new powers are aimed at dealing with complaints ranging from bad prescribing to persistent rudeness.

At present, the council is only able to investigate cases of serious professional misconduct — usually involving sexual liaisons with patients, fraud or negligence — or cases in which a health problem, usually caused by drink,

Wider role envisaged for Nato forces in Europe

The following is an edited version of the Queen's Speech.

MY GOVERNMENT attach the highest importance to national security. They will work to continue the process of Nato's adaptation to the changing security environment to allow it to play a wider role in protecting stability throughout Europe.

At the Budapest summit in December, they will seek to enhance the role of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in conflict prevention and resolution. They will also work for full implementation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty.

My Government will continue its efforts to promote a peaceful settlement in the former Yugoslavia.

My Government look forward to the enlargement of the European Union in January. They will work with our partners to give greater substance to the European agreements between the union and countries of central Europe, with the aim of preparing these countries for eventual membership of the union.

Members of the House of Commons, estimates for the public service will be laid before you. Legislation will be introduced to give force to the changes in the European Community's system of own resources following the agreement at the Edinburgh European Council.

My Government will continue with firm financial policies designed to support economic growth and rising employment, based on permanently low inflation. Fiscal policy will continue to be set to bring the budget deficit back towards balance over the medium term. My Government will reduce the share of national income taken by the public sector.

My Government will continue to promote enterprise, to improve the working of the labour market and to strengthen the supply performance of the economy. They will bring forward legislation to promote competition in



The Queen passing through the House of Lords before making her speech

the gas industry and to reform the agricultural tenancy laws in England and Wales.

A Bill will be introduced to create a Jobseeker's Allowance, reforming benefits for unemployed people and giving them better help into work. Legislation will be introduced to equalise the state pension age between men and women and to improve security, equality and choice in non-state pensions.

My Government will continue to implement policies and programmes responsive to the needs of the individual citizen, in line with the Citizen's Charter. They will

introduce a Bill to tackle discrimination against disabled people. My Government will bring forward legislation to make further improvements to the management of the National Health Service and to provide for people with a serious mental disorder discharged from hospital to be cared for under supervision.

Legislation will be introduced to transfer the Crown Agents and the commercial activities of the Atomic Energy Authority to the private sector, and to authorise the construction and operation by the private sector of a high-speed rail link between

London and the Channel Tunnel. The delivery of environment policies will be strengthened by legislation to establish environment agencies for England and Wales and for Scotland.

Legislation will be introduced to reform the Scottish criminal justice system.

In Northern Ireland, my Government will build on the progress already made to secure peace and a comprehensive political accommodation founded on the principles of democracy and consent.

Peter Riddell, page 18
Leading article, page 19

OTHER BILLS

Objectors will delay tunnel link

A hybrid Bill to authorise building the £2.7 billion Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link could take two years to become law because of the number of objectors to be heard.

Work on the 68-mile link from London to Folkestone will take at least five years, making it 2002 at the earliest before Eurostar trains can travel through Kent at 140mph, compared with the 180mph already achieved in France.

Farmers cheer rent reforms

Farmers and landowners welcomed legislation to encourage the release of more agricultural land for rent. The Agricultural Tenancies Bill, making renting more flexible and abolishing the right to a tenancy for life, will be tabled within a week.

Hugh Dubery, president of the Country Landowners Association, said the legislation would revitalise the farming industry, "attracting capital, expertise and new entrants".

Greens to fight pollution police

An environmental agency to police air, land and water was announced. Green and wildlife groups said that the Environment Agencies Bill will face a difficult time in Parliament because it would weaken environmental protection.

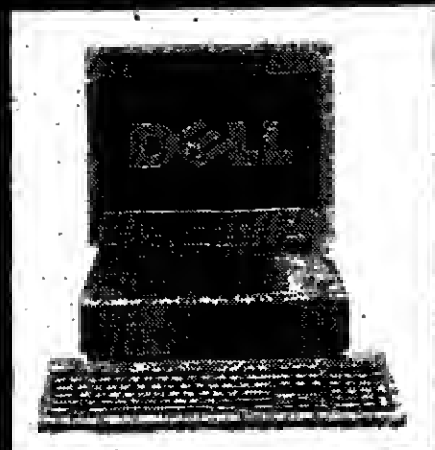
The Lords are likely to object to more powers for Whitehall. The Bill will merge the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution and waste regulation authorities.

Crown Agents switch revived

Privatising the Crown Agents marks a revival of legislation shelved by Cabinet ministers earlier this year. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, led moves to resurrect the proposals after plans to privatise the Post Office collapsed.

The agency offers technical and financial advice on distributing funds to 3,000 public bodies in 150 countries. There will be no formal sell-off but powers will be transferred to an independent foundation.

Want more power in the office?
For £999* it's yours.



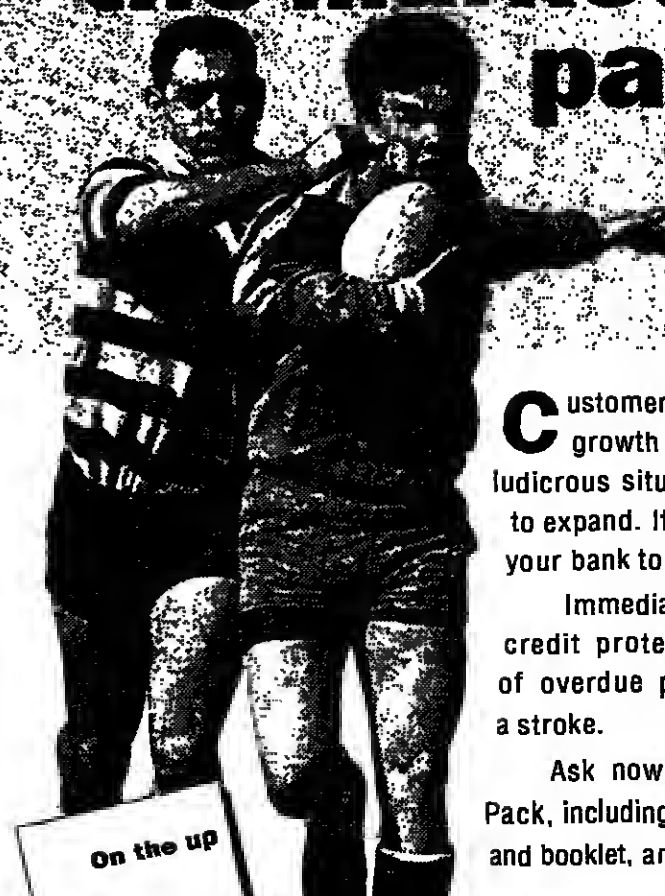
£999 + VAT excl. delivery

The Dimension 466 from Dell® at only £999 (*excl. VAT and delivery), is so keenly priced, you'll need a very good reason for buying any other such fully featured 486 PC. And, when you take into account our award winning Technical Support Hotline, open between 8am and 8pm on weekdays, our one year 'Collect and Return' warranty, you have a very powerful case for ordering the 466 today.

• DELL DIMENSION 466 • INTEL® 66MHz 486® DX2 PROCESSOR • 8Mb RAM • 128Kb CACHE • 3.5" DISKETTE DRIVE • 340Mb HARD DRIVE • LOCAL BUS VIDEO WITH 1Mb VIDEO MEMORY • 15" COLOUR SVGA DISPLAY • LOW PROFILE DESKTOP CHASSIS • 3 ISA EXPANSION SLOTS • MS-DOS 6.2 / DELL MOUSE / KEYBOARD / WINDOWS FOR WORKGROUPS 3.11



You find a gap in the market but slow payers hold your cash back.



Customers who delay payment stifle a company's growth and threaten its very survival. It's a ludicrous situation - it's your money and you need it to expand. If only you could guarantee it would be in your bank tomorrow...

Immediate cash against outstanding invoices, credit protection and the chasing and collecting of overdue payments would solve the problem at a stroke.

Ask now for the Lombard NatWest Information Pack, including our free "Cashflow Planner" software disk and booklet, and sidestep the cashflow problem.

Businesses can call FREE on
0800 711 911
or return the coupon

If your turnover is over £100,000 and your business sells to other businesses on trade credit terms, return this coupon now to: Lombard NatWest, Enterprise House, 100, Watlington Road, Watlington, Oxford, OX12 9JL.

Name: _____ Position: _____
Company Name: _____ Address: _____
Town: _____ County: _____
Postcode: _____ Tel. No: _____
Fax: _____
To receive your FREE cashflow diskette and booklet please complete questions below:

What business are you in? _____
Does your business sell to other businesses? _____ YES _____ NO (If yes, how many?) _____
TIM/4/11/15R

Lombard NatWest
Factoring & Invoice Discounting
alternative cashflow solutions

A crash test dummy is 90% steel, 10% foam and 0% human.

It will not brace itself in a collision. Nor will it protect its face with its arms.

In short, it won't react at all.

Which is why at Mercedes-Benz, in addition to dummies, we use a different kind of accident analysis.

Real life.

Ever since 1969, any serious accident involving a Mercedes within an hour's drive of Stuttgart is investigated by our medical and technical experts, known as the Accident Analysis Team.

On average, it is called out about a hundred times a year.

Its job is to document the principal damage to the car and to reconstruct the whole sequence of events leading up to the accident.

But most important of all, it studies any injuries to the driver and passengers, and attempts to discover what caused them.

As you can imagine, this is a very time-consuming job. It hasn't just increased our knowledge and understanding of real accidents, however.

What we have learned has helped to make our controlled crash testing more thorough and realistic.

For example, accident analysis showed us that the 100% head-on collision test which is required by law actually accounts for a mere 4% of all serious accidents.

Much more common is an 'offset' collision, which is an accident where the cars overlap.

This is because a driver is more likely to try to avoid an oncoming car than to drive straight into it.

In a head-on collision most of the impact is absorbed by the engine. In an 'offset' collision this isn't the case.

Consequently, all Mercedes are designed to survive both types of accident.

In fact, we designed our safety cage to re-distribute the force of an offset impact more

evenly and protect the passenger compartment.

Our accident analysis also showed us how the foot pedals could seriously damage a driver's feet and ankles.

As a result, we placed a 25mm styrofoam pad between the carpet and the sheet metal, and engineered foot pedals that will pivot away from the driver on impact.

In 1984 we were the first to fit seat-belt pre-tensioners as standard on all our cars.

Once again, this was as a result of accident analysis showing how a body continues to

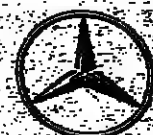
move forward beyond the moment of impact.

When you consider that this analysis is still not required by law, you may ask why we do it. By now, the answer should be obvious. We couldn't make our cars as safe without it.

So a more pertinent question might be not why we do it, but why all manufacturers don't.

If you would like to know more we have a brochure called 'Safety First'.

To obtain a copy, please telephone us on 081-554 8822 (Ext. 1388) or call into your nearest Mercedes dealer.



Real people in a real accident. It's our idea of a real test.

Bosnia demands Nato airstrike on advancing Serbs

By MICHAEL EVANS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Izetbegovic of Bosnia yesterday called on Nato to halt the Serb offensive against the Muslim-controlled enclave of Bihac in northwest Bosnia. He demanded that Nato send in warplanes after a Sarajevo radio report that Serb forces had entered the town of Velika Kladusa, inside the enclave.

The United Nations reported that Serb forces were now only three miles from the town of Bihac. "The situation in Bihac looks pretty bad," Michael Williams, the UN spokesman said. America this week asked its Nato partners to consider declaring a heavy-weapons exclusion zone around the town.

Counter-attacking Serbs have seized most of the Bihac territory captured by the 5th Corps of the mainly Muslim Bosnian army in its surprise offensive last month. The Bosnian Serb army said that forces loyal to Fikret Abdic, the ousted intransigent Muslim leader, were also in Velika Kladusa. The UN said it had received reports from Serb sources that soldiers loyal to Mr Abdic had crossed into Bihac from Serb-held areas of Croatia yesterday.

Mr Abdic called on the 5th Corps to surrender. "We are

not offering you an amnesty, we are letting you go home," he said.

Harris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister, told reporters: "There were two groups that infiltrated the suburbs of Velika Kladusa and I think by this time both groups are neutralised." But UN High Commissioner for Refugees staff in the town said it was coming under intense anti-aircraft fire.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, commander of the UN forces in Bosnia, said before giving a lecture at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen last night that his

conviction that the UN troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina were keeping the war in check helped him remain "firm of purpose" in his job. He admitted, however, that he had been deeply affected by the violence and despair in Bosnia.

General Rose said: "There are probably 1,000 people a month alive in Bosnia that would not be there if the UN wasn't doing its job."

The general is returning to his position as commander of Britain's Field Army at the end of January. His successor will be Major-General Rupert Smith, currently Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff at the Ministry of Defence.

The five-nation Bosnia Contact Group meets in London today and is expected to press ahead with plans to force the Bosnian Serbs to accept its peace proposals. However, the group is likely to adopt "Plan B", an alternative arrangement bringing in other related agreements so that the package is more acceptable to the warring parties. This alternative plan includes possible mutual recognition of Serbia and Croatia, the role of the UN throughout the former Yugoslavia and a settlement giving autonomy to the Serbs in Krajina.



Izetbegovic: alarm over offensive in Bihac

War of the poor sends brother against brother

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN BUGOJNO, CENTRAL BOSNIA

SERDJAN the soldier sits in a dimly lit room nursing the stump where his right foot once was; it was blown off by a landmine two years ago in the continuing battle by the Bosnian army to wrest control of Dornji Vakuf from the Bosnian Serbs. He is also nursing a family feud; he and his brother-in-law are fighting for the Muslim side, while their two brothers are fighting for the Serbs.

Serdjan's fate is not uncommon in the confusion of loyalties that form the backdrop to the Bosnian war. He and his three brothers were born to a Serb father and Muslim mother, both of whom continue to live in the town. Before the conflict

Serdjan did not know the fate of his other brothers until he and Dadi met his sister, Jasminka, in Bugojno a few weeks later after she had been exchanged by the Serbs as part of a civilian swap. "When she saw us both she hugged me and started to cry. Oh my God," she said. "Brother is shouting at brother." She confessed that his brothers were with the Serb army in Dornji Vakuf.

As the war intensified neither side of the family, divided by less than nine miles, heard news of the other. But the front lines moved closer. Serdjan and Dadi found themselves in the trenches west of Bugojno, pitted in a conflict against troops that included their brothers.

"I didn't have a lot of time to think about it," Serdjan says. "There is a rule in every army: if you don't kill your enemy, he will kill you. Yet of course my brothers are not my enemies. I hope that somehow they can escape all this."

Thin, dark-haired and wiry, Serdjan laughs rather too often. His words tumble out at jumbled speed and his eyes have that frozen look that accompanies trauma. His six-year-old son fidgets while watching the currently apocalyptic film *Mad Max* on a flickering television screen. His wife Jasmina sits quietly, a striking Balkan beauty with a nervous facial twitch that belies her apparent serenity.

What makes Serdjan and his family doubly anxious is that the final Bosnian assault to retake Dornji Vakuf from the Serbs is said to be imminent. Serdjan, with his stump of a foot, will not be there. But Dadi will. Above all, Serdjan hopes that Dadi will be one of the first into the town to save his brothers.

"I don't give a damn about politics," he says. "You never see the sons of the rich fighting on opposite sides, only the children of the poor."

You never see the sons of the rich fighting on opposite sides, only the children of the poor

began he was a tinsmith. In April 1992, as Bosnia began to slide into its bloody fragments, all four brothers were notified of their conscription into the Serb-dominated Yugoslav national army.

"When I heard that they were going to put us in the Serb army, I told my father that I was leaving," Serdjan says quickly, his words tumbling out. "Father gave me a watch and told me: 'My son, run from here there is no more life for you here.' With one other brother, Dadi, he fled to Bugojno, a government-held town near by, where both were among the first to join the fledgling Bosnian army. "I joined the army because I believe that this is the right side," Serdjan says. "I am a real Bosnian."

Euro-MPs threaten to block enlargement

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN STRASBOURG

MEMBERS of the European Parliament have privately threatened to block or delay expansion of the European Union to Central and Eastern Europe, unless the Maastricht review in 1996 agrees to grant them more powers.

Several members of the Parliament, dominated by the Socialist faction, no longer rule out a showdown with the Council of Ministers and Britain, one of the strongest supporters of enlargement. The Parliament has the right to veto enlargement.

The veto threat would be seen as a negotiating tactic to secure an increase in Parliament's powers and to reduce further the ability of states to

block EU legislation in the Council of Ministers. Both aims are almost certain to run into opposition from London.

One MEP said that even if Parliament took a benign and unselfish attitude, it would not be possible to satisfy the Central and Eastern European countries that have expressed a wish to join the EU before the end of the decade. The negotiations, which will be the responsibility of Hans van den Broek, the External Affairs Commissioner, will not begin until after the 1996 inter-governmental conference and are unlikely to succeed in the absence of substantial reform of the Common Agriculture Policy.



Once threatened with removal, the roadside Osborne liquor logo has been officially declared "of artistic and cultural significance"

Mercy plea saves Spain's roadside bulls

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE huge black bulls advertising sherry which dominate the skyline beside Spanish highways are to be saved from a ban on roadside billboards thanks to a unique piece of legislation that declares them to be of "artistic and cultural significance".

The 38ft-high metal images of the beasts carry no lettering. They do not need as everyone knows they are the logo of sherry and brandy produced by the Andalusian bodega, Osborne. To tourists they are synonymous with

Spain itself. The bulls, of which 93 survive from an original 500, were threatened with extinction six years ago when the Transport Ministry's roads law prohibited all billboards in non-urban areas. Spaniards immediately rallied to save what many consider a national symbol.

"I like their silhouette," admitted José Borrell, the Minister of Transport, this week. "But ministers cannot act according to their likes, but by laws, and these are made in parliament."

On Tuesday the parliamentary committee for infrastructure and the

environment ruled: "The artistic and cultural significance of the roadside bull, and his integration with the Spanish countryside, ought to be protected. Therefore we recommend that the competent public authorities guarantee the permanence of the bulls' silhouettes."

"The phenomenon was the reaction by the people to the disappearance of the *toro*," Claire Filhol of Osborne's marketing department in Puerto de Santa Maria, said yesterday. "We received mountains of letters from all over the world. The bulls are an image of Spain." The company must be

delighted. Many monuments have been used in advertising logos, but it is usually only in the dreams of publicists that a marketing image becomes a national symbol.

The decision by the deputies in the Cortes (parliament) will obviate an expected Supreme Court ruling that the bulls are merely advertising and should be destroyed.

Forty years ago the Osborne bodega commissioned a logo design for *Veterano* brandy from the artist Martin Prieto. It first rejected his bull designs, but then started to put them up in 1956.

WALLCOVERINGS



ATLAS WALLPAPER STRIPPER AE301 2kW, 5 litre water capacity, with water level indicator and 2m cable.

£26.99

'FRESH LOOKS' SCULPTURED VINYL WALLCOVERING BY CONTOUR 'Picnic', 'Spring' and 'Potentilla' designs. Product numbers 50692, 50178 and 50175.

£7.99 per roll

Offer ends 8pm Monday 28th November

'Picnic' and 'Potentilla' Border. Roll size 5m. Product numbers 54026 and 50202.

£4.49 per roll

JEFF BANKS 'PORTS OF CALL' COLLECTION BY VYMURA 'Kabul' or 'Hera' designs. 5 colours available.

£6.99 per roll

'SHAND KYDD' WALLCOVERINGS BY CROWN BERGER Product numbers 57928, 57929, 57935, 57936.

£6.99 per roll

'SHAND KYDD' BORDER Roll size 5m. Product numbers 57982, 57984.

£3.99 per roll

CROWN BERGER ANAGLYPTA VINYL BORDER Roll size 5m. Product numbers RD752 and RD756.

£2.99 per roll

HARDBOARD TOP FOLDING PASTE TABLE

£5.99

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN - Free call 0500 300 150 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE

B&Q
Supercentres

ANAGLYPTA By Crown Berger Fine/Ultra Fine Anaglypta Wallcoverings.

£2.99 per roll

WAS £4.99 NOW

Product Nos. RD842, RD960, RD968, RD974.

OPENING HOURS Monday to Saturday 8am to 8pm. Sunday Most stores in England and Wales 10am to 4pm (where permitted). Scotland and Northern Ireland 9am to 6pm. (Ballymena closed Sunday).

Offers are subject to availability. Sizes shown are approximate. Some of our smaller Supercentres may not stock the full range of products, please phone to check before travelling.

Mass grave found as warring Angolans agree truce

By MICHAEL HAMILYN, SOUTHERN AFRICAN CORRESPONDENT

A TENTATIVE truce in the Angolan civil war, which has ravaged the former Portuguese colony since independence two decades ago, was due to take effect last night, prior to a more formal ceasefire next week.

However, while generals hammered out peace terms in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, fighting continued round the north Angolan city of Uige, the last provincial capital still held by Unita rebels.

In Huambo, recently captured by government troops from Unita, residents found 200 civilian bodies, apparently murdered by rebel soldiers as they withdrew. A number of bodies were stuffed into wells, according to state radio, which said the toll could rise. A television cameraman said he saw bodies being pulled out of water-holes, and suggested that they were members of the ruling party and bureaucrats who had remained in the city when it was captured by Unita last year.

More fighting was reported near Cumpuar, 46 miles east of Huambo. The truce, the first since May 1991, merely halted the shooting until a

more formal ceasefire can come into force next Tuesday, two days after a full peace agreement is expected.

However, optimism was guarded that the truce would hold. Throughout the war that began on the eve of independence in 1975 peace overtures and treaties have failed to stop the fighting. Some commanders in the field said they had not even heard of the truce. A national broadcast was expected on government radio.

Yesterday the military

teams from Unita and the government, who drew up the truce, met again to put the finishing touches to the formal agreement. The agreement was initiated by both sides last month and the formal signing was expected on Tuesday, but it was called off by Unita because of the renewed assault on Huambo by government forces.

The Angolan people have suffered for 20 years and the fact that we can say there will be no more killings is very

satisfactory," said Alioune Beye, the special representative of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General.

However, Unita complained yesterday that the truce was meaningless without UN monitors. Most of the recent fighting has been a government offensive that captured key rebel strongholds.

There is no guarantee the government, through its generals and its mercenaries, will order the attacks halted," said a Unita statement in Lisbon.

UN monitors and police would start deploying in Angola only after the start of the formal ceasefire. Mr Beye said. Once convinced the truce would hold, the UN would send several thousand troops to provide security.

An outstanding key issue was how many security guards and weapons Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, would be allowed to retain. According to diplomatic sources, the Unita leader was concerned about assassination attempts. Another issue is the incorporation of Unita forces into a unified defence force.



A young Angolan boy, one of the millions of children affected by wars around the world, watches a government soldier in the besieged town of Malange, 350 miles east of the capital, Luanda

Five million children fall victim in wars

ONE child in every 200 in the world has been traumatised by war. Terry White, the former Beirut hostage, said in London yesterday at the launch of Save the Children's report, *Children at War* (Marianne Darch writes).

Mr White called for the making and distributing of landmines to be banned and more action to be taken

against those who profit from killing.

The report says that in the past decade more than 15 million children have been killed in wars, with four million left disabled. It says that some landmines resemble small toys.

Save the Children estimates that about 150 people around the world are killed by mines each week.

Hero of Nice sent back into dock

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

FRENCH judges are rounding up shady mayors and former ministers these days, but none of the newly indicted stirs both love and fear like Jacques Médecin, the colourful former Mayor of Nice who is to touch down in Paris today after four years on the run in South America.

While his many supporters on the Baie des Anges demonstrate their affection for the man they still call *monsieur le maire*, the gendarmes are expected to whisk M Médecin to Grenoble, where he will be held pending charges of fraud and embezzlement. Alain Carignon, the Mayor of Grenoble and recent Minister of Communications, will not be on hand, since he is otherwise

detained in a Lyons jail on similar charges.

With elections months away, few really want this ignominious return of *le grand Jacques*, the roguish godfather of the Riviera, who is alleged to have run his city like a personal casino. "I am a hostage, a victim of a political kidnapping by the Socialist state," M Médecin has been protesting from his cell in Montevideo.

For the nostalgists of Nice, M Médecin should have been left in the Uruguay mansion where he was arrested a year ago after pressure from the Mitterrand administration. He may have been a little sloppy with the book-keeping, they say, but he ran a dazzling city. Since his flight, crime has rocketed, recession has hit and the tourists have stayed away. For some, the homecoming is a nightmare because he has vowed to settle accounts by hauling the skeletons from the municipal cupboards. Jean-Paul Barety, the present Gaullist Mayor, is given little chance of staying in office. It is a position M Médecin wishes to hold again, despite a one-year jail sentence passed in absentia.

M Médecin plans to name the 100 councillors who enjoyed the largesse of a single municipal fund. Some figures in the Gaullist and centre-right UDF party are also nervous.

Balladur in plan for 5-year term

By CHARLES BRENNER

EDOUARD Balladur, the French Prime Minister and presidential contender, yesterday offered his plans for greater democracy and endorsed a long-standing proposal to shorten the presidential term from seven to five years.

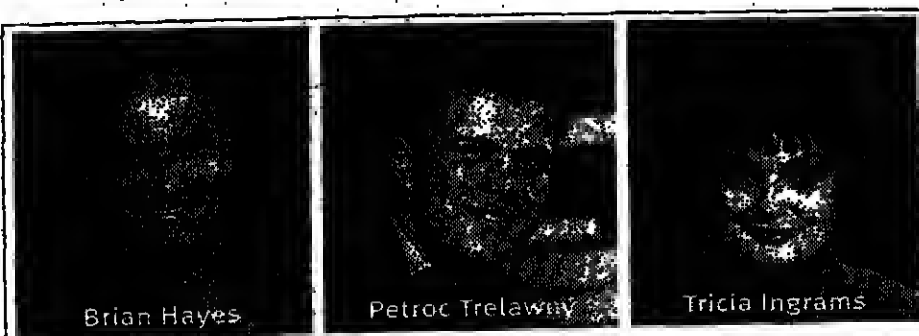
The tenure of the Elysée Palace should be cut or restricted to a single term, M Balladur said in a newspaper article that was viewed as a draft of his manifesto for next spring's election.

Jacques Delors, the likely Socialist candidate, has published a similar platform, although, like the Prime Minister, he has not yet declared his candidature. Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister's Gaullist rival and declared candidate, has promised to end what he calls the "monarchical drift" of the presidential system.

President Mitterrand, who is ending his second seven-year term, also campaigned for the five-year tenure before his election in 1981. The idea is often raised as a solution to "cohabitation". The problem of a President and government from opposing camps could be avoided, it is argued, if presidential terms were brought into line with the five-year life of parliament. The proposal enjoys moderate popular support, although opponents say the present system suits the French political temperament.



Médecin faces charges of fraud and embezzlement



Announcing a new era in Radio. The Talkies.

London
news
talk
1152 am

Original talk radio.

rent a brand new fst tv & video



brand new granada fst tv & video

tv
■ 51cm visible screen
■ remote control
■ on screen display
model 51MS2

video
■ infra red remote control
■ long play
model HSMP1

only
£22
per month



same day service
if you call before 1pm
new

no need to wait in all day
3 lined service bands
9-12 noon, 12-3pm, 3-6pm

switch on to a gr service

teletext tv & video

tv
■ 51cm visible screen
■ teletext
■ remote control
selected models

video
■ remote control
selected models

only
£20
per month



nicam tv & video

tv
■ 51cm visible screen
■ nicam digital stereo
■ teletext
selected models

video
■ nicam digital stereo
■ long play
selected models

only
£25
per month



thinking of a mobile phone?
switch on at granada
from only
£39.99



GRANADA

how switched on can you get?

All offers subject to availability. A one off administration charge of £5.00 is payable on all new accounts. Rental Available to persons over 18 subject to status. Minimum rental period 12 months. Rental prices quoted are by Direct Debit 50p per account for other payment methods. Prices include service cover. One month deposit in advance. Written quotation on request. Price applies to Motorola Personal new connections to airtime provided by Granada Mobile Phones. Airtime connection fee from £29.38. Granada House, Amphill Road, Bedford MK42 9QJ. Member of the Granada Group plc

New drugs for controlling epilepsy... childhood leukaemia and the evacuation evidence... learning to recognise the symptoms of hepatitis C



IT IS whispered that in some parts of London ambitious parents will do anything, short of murder, to have their daughters accepted by one of the day schools where the academic standards are high. Nine-year-old Harriet is at one of these schools. Bright, cheery, keen on gymnastics and the violin, she makes the best possible use of the school's facilities, and is doing well in her class despite a wandering attention.

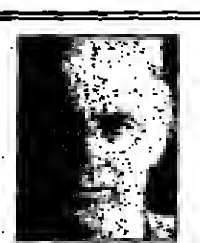
Harriet's lapses in attention are not the result of daydreaming, or looking despairingly at the clock, but absence seizures, the type of general epileptic seizure which used to be known as petit mal. Harriet was monitored earlier this year when it was found that she was having 100 seizures a day, each absence lasted up to 15 seconds, on average five seconds.

The type of seizure known as absences affects fewer than 5 per cent of people with epilepsy. When having one, the patient looks blank, staring, and distant. Sometimes there is a twitch of the

Apologies for absence

muscles. Harriet, for instance, tends to roll her eyes upwards when having an attack. The number of seizures from which Harriet suffers has been radically reduced by a new drug, Lamictal (lamotrigine), as well as Ethosuximide, traditionally used to treat petit mal.

The number of Harriet's attacks has now been halved, and they seem less prolonged. Two other new drugs, Neurontin (gabapentin) and Sabril (vigabatrin), have also proved useful in treating patients with poor seizure control. Lamictal mercifully has a low



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

incidence of unwellcome side effects.

Epilepsy regularly affects 350,000 people in Britain: between 2 and 5 per cent of the population will have had a seizure at some time. A third of patients with epilepsy have more than one seizure a month.

Despite its impact on individuals, families and schools, epilepsy has been neglected. A recent survey showed that 54 per cent of doctors feel they do not know enough about its causes and effects, and 90 per cent think that their knowledge of its treatment is inadequate. However, this week,

teaching and research into epilepsy have been greatly strengthened by the launch of the Institute of Epileptology, which has been spawned by the Maudsley and King's College Hospitals, the Institute of Psychiatry, and other specialised units. It will take its place as one of Britain's centres of medical excellence; already more research is being carried out in it than anywhere else in Europe.

Seventy per cent of all cases of epilepsy start in childhood. Dr Graeme Jackson, senior lecturer in neurology at the Institute of Child Health, and honorary consultant at Great Ormond Street Hospital, has made a study of childhood epilepsy and the difficulties it may give rise to in schooling. Dr Jackson said that loss of performance could be related to the initial damage to the brain which was responsible for the seizures. It might also stem from the seizures, or from side effects of drugs. Whatever the cause, opportunities to learn once they are missed by a child, might have gone beyond recall.

Whenever possible the cause of epilepsy must be found, because in some cases a cure is possible.

Rural ills

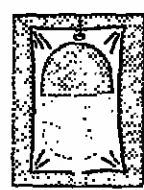


FIFTY years ago, more than a million children were evacuated from London and the South East to safer regions. The infant John Major was among those who were sent to Norfolk. Despite a ten-year-old's recent contribution to the *Journal of Epidemiology and Public Health*, which ranked the Prime Minister with sweets, chips, and red meat as a danger to health, few doctors would consider the Prime Minister a likely carrier of a dreaded disease. Yet in 1944, as an evacuee, Mr Major and his fellow children could have found themselves in this category.

The *British Medical Journal* reports on the research of Dr Leo Kinlen and S.M. John, of the Cancer Research Campaign's epidemiology unit at Oxford University, who have studied the effect of the evacuation programme on the incidence of childhood leukaemia. The shifting of large numbers of children from densely populated

city areas to sparsely populated rural districts brought mortality from leukaemia among susceptible country children into line with that of city-dwellers. In those districts which hosted the most evacuees, childhood leukaemia increased by 47 per cent. It is reasonable to assume that the mixing of children contributed to this, and that the Oxford research provides more evidence for an infective basis to childhood leukaemia.

Late cirrhosis



THERE is no reason to doubt reports that 5,000 people have caught hepatitis C from contaminated blood given during transfusion before 1991, and that 12 patients last year died from cirrhosis, which is in some cases a late complication of the infection. Once the virus had been isolated, it was accepted that many people must have been infected before the causative agent had been found,

and blood for transfusion could be checked for it.

Professor Arie Zuckerman, dean of the Royal Free Hospital, London, says: "It may well be that hepatitis C represents a bigger public health problem than does hepatitis B."

The viruses responsible for hepatitis A and B were recognised many years ago, and at that time it was also known that other cases of hepatitis were the result of infection by other causative agents which had not yet been isolated.

The initial illness caused by hepatitis C is mild, but given this, there is a surprisingly large number of patients who later develop a persistent, mild, often symptom-free low-grade hepatitis. Of these, 20 per cent may, years later, develop cirrhosis. Professor Zuckerman said that response to treatment at this stage had been rather disappointing. In carefully selected patients who had been treated with interferon combined with other anti-viral agents, early evidence suggested that not more than 40 per cent would have a good response, and that the virus would be cleared.

Why blood pressure is a mystery

What is the cause of hypertension and Britain's 30,000 stroke deaths a year? A new study serves only to fuel the controversy, as Dr James Le Fanu reports

WITH the passage of time, words can acquire quite different connotations. "Stroke", so resonant of gentleness and seduction for the young, becomes in later life a sudden and dramatic felling. The catastrophic loss of power and intellect that may result is probably the most grievous of all misfortunes, eminently justifying the sensible precaution of having one's blood pressure checked regularly and taking appropriate medication if it is found to be raised.

Last week, a group of government-appointed experts proposed in the Coma Report that the toll of strokes — responsible for 30,000 deaths a year — would be further reduced were everyone to lower the amount of salt they consume by a third: for example, cutting down on salty foods, limiting the amount added at cooking and not adding it at all.

A reasonable suggestion certainly, and well worth adopting, were it not that many doctors, including specialists in studying and treating raised blood pressure (hypertension), disagree. When the same recommendation was made ten years ago, it met a very cold response. Thirteen hypertension experts representing eight specialist units in this country, and abroad wrote collectively to

The Lancet expressing concern that "the usual scientific standards for weighing evidence and giving advice have been forgotten in an evangelistic crusade to present a simplistic view of the evidence". The proposal was, they said, "unjustified and irresponsible", while the "potential harmful consequences have not been examined".

They clearly thought that yet another dietary fad was unjustifiably being foisted on the public. But to understand why, it is necessary to take a closer look.

The blood pressure is primarily determined by smooth muscle in the walls of the arteries which, by altering their diameter, can change the resistance to the flow of blood, and thus the pressure required to push it around the circulation.

The maintenance of a steady blood pressure is without doubt the most important physiological requirement of the body, for the fairly obvious reason that the brain must have a constant blood supply. Were the blood pressure to fluctuate when, for example, we stand up or lie down, the brain would be deprived of oxygen with predictably dire consequences.

The blood pressure is therefore the best defended of all physiological functions, with half a dozen separate homeo-

static mechanisms backing each other up to guarantee its stability — pressure receptors in the artery walls, hormones secreted by the kidneys, monitors of the amount of body fluids and several others besides. These mechanisms operate independently of each other; it has been shown in animal experiments that it is possible to strip away one control system after another, and still the blood pressure remains unchanged.

With the blood pressure so well protected, modest changes in salt consumption are unlikely to be very influential, not least because the concentration of salt itself in the body is rigorously controlled, so any excess is rapidly excreted; with salt deprivation, it is rigorously conserved in the kidneys.

Nonetheless, the cause of persistently raised blood pressure is not known (except in a small minority of cases), and there is some evidence that salt consumption may be implicated. Thus primitive societies where little salt is consumed have a very low frequency of hypertension, and in addition the blood pressure does not rise with age as it does in the West. Further, migration from "low" to "high" salt societies is usually accompanied by a rise in blood pressure. This has been shown many times in communities as disparate as



Regular checks on blood pressure are a sensible precaution, but does reducing salt intake help the general public?

the Easter Islanders moving to the South American mainland, and rural Zulus moving to urban areas.

Not all agree that differences in salt consumption explain this phenomenon, suggesting rather that the rise in blood pressure may be due to the stresses of urbanised western living. Support for this "stress"

theory has come from a recent study comparing the blood pressure of 144 nuns in a secluded monastic order in Umbria with a similar number of women living in close proximity.

The nuns followed the Rule of St Benedict — *ora et labora* — spending their days in absolute silence praying, doing domestic chores and gar-

dening. Whereas the blood pressure of those living outside the walls of the monastery rose steadily over a period of 20 years, that of the nuns remained completely unchanged. As the amount of salt consumed by the two groups was exactly the same, Dr Mario Timio of the University of Perugia — who conducted the study — attributed the

difference in blood pressure to convent life, which is "virtually devoid of conflict, aggression and competition for power and money".

Much the simplest way of determining whether salt contributes significantly to hypertension is to change the amount consumed and see what happens. Extreme salt restriction does seem to lower

the blood pressure, and in the early 1950s, before the discovery of effective anti-hypertensive drugs, the only treatment was a salt-free, monotonous and very unappetising diet of rice and fruit, which not surprisingly very few patients were able to stick to for any length of time.

Studies of more modest reductions in salt have given contradictory results, showing either a small effect or none at all, and in some a paradoxical increase in blood pressure.

Despite this uncertainty Dr M.R. Law of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, was able to report in the *British Medical Journal* three years ago that by combining the results of 45 separate studies, it was possible to show that if everyone reduced the amount

Studies of modest salt reductions are contradictory

of salt they consumed by three grams a day, this would lower the blood pressure sufficiently to prevent 15 per cent of all strokes.

Regrettably this did not end the controversy, as Dr Law was promptly criticised for having heavily skewed his conclusions by including large numbers of poorly conducted studies. A more rigorous overview by John Swales, Professor of Medicine at Leicester Royal Infirmary, published later the same year, found that reducing salt "had no significant effect in those with normal blood pressure", while "a small fall" was detectable in those with hypertension, "but only with substantial sodium restriction".

"It is necessary to make a sharp distinction," Professor Swales argues, "between advising patients being treated for hypertension to change their salt intake, and making similar recommendations to the general public. The former may help a little, the latter does not."

The Times and the Café Royal invite you to a celebratory dinner

The best of British cooking

Readers are offered the opportunity of a memorable night out when Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook, returns to the Grill Room of the Café Royal to cook two special dinners.

Working with Herbert Berger, the chef at the Michelin-starred restaurant, she will prepare six-course menus on Monday November 21 and Tuesday November 22.

The dinners will feature some of her favourite autumn ingredients including scallops and smoked haddock, orchard fruits, British farmhouse cheeses and game.

Frances Bissell's husband Tom, who has one of the most celebrated small wine cellars in London, has worked with David Arcusi, the restaurant manager, to draw up a list of specially selected wines for the two dinners. Diners will be able to choose to suit their own tastes and budget.

The cost of each sumptuous dinner is only £49, which includes an appetiser, coffee, sweetmeats, Vat and service. Also included in the price is a glass of Mumm Cordon Rouge champagne on arrival and, with the pudding, a glass of Mumm Cordon Vert — a soft, light and fruity demi-sec champagne and one of the cook's favourites.

G.H. MUMM & Co



Chief Herbert Berger, restaurant manager David Arcusi and Frances Bissell

The autumn menus

subject to daily market availability

November 21

Game terrine

Kedgeree of smoked haddock with quail egg and mango and curry sauce

Jugged hare, with seasonal vegetables

British farmhouse cheeses

Pear sorbet

Apple and almond crumble with muscadine cream and saffron sauce

To make reservations for either or both dinners, phone the Café Royal on:

071-437 9090

quoting *The Times* dinners for readers. Frances Bissell's spring dinners were fully booked within a few hours of going on sale, so you are advised not to delay.

Raising taboos over baby fever

Why mothers reject the best method for taking an infant's temperature

ALMOST all babies develop a fever at some time during their first year of life. Mostly they are just caused by simple coughs and colds, but it is still worrying for parents, especially when the baby is less than six months old. It is difficult to figure out exactly how ill young babies are. This is probably why a child with a fever is the commonest condition a GP sees on a night visit.

The Baby Check scoring system was designed in the Newcastle area to help parents to assess how ill a baby is. A baby not eating or, more importantly, not drinking, or a baby restless and crying for long periods of time might indicate something more than a simple viral cold.

Part of the Baby Check inventory included taking the temperature, which both parents and doctors recognise as an important part of assessing a baby's illness. A thermometer was provided and instructions given about taking the temperature via the baby's rectum, as this is known to be the most accurate way of recording it. A diagram showing how to take a rectal temperature was included with the Baby Check list.

But researcher Joa Kai began to realise that very few mothers were actually recording the temperature as they were instructed, and set about trying to find out why. He interviewed about 40 parents in the area, and his results made surprising reading.

The main reason for their reluctance was anxiety about harming the child by placing the thermometer through the rectum. Moreover, at least half of the mothers interviewed were concerned that this method might be misunderstood as a form of sexual abuse.

"People might think the wrong thing," said one mother. "they would say you were molesting her... and then you have a social worker at your door." The vast majority of the mothers interviewed simply didn't want to take the temperature rectally. "I think it's horrible, it just doesn't seem right," said one. Most parents also preferred to take the temperature under the arm, knowing it to be less accurate, because it allowed them to cuddle the baby at the same time.

Parents were quite happy for doctors and nurses to take a rectal temperature, but not

merely because of their superior medical experience: the parents expressed a social taboo about taking a temperature rectally which they were unwilling to break, and which seems to have its origin in anxiety about sexual intimacy or abuse.

A small group of mothers who were carrying out rectal assessments of temperature had all been introduced to it in hospital, and perhaps felt that this legitimised the experience.

Part of the anxiety may stem from the Cleveland sexual abuse case, where much publicity was attached to rectal and anal examination in the diagnosis of sexual abuse. Not

only parents, but many doctors expressed reluctance to take rectal temperature. So in medicine, like anything else, what looks good in theory may not work in practice.

DR KIERAN SWEENEY

Panic Attacks?

If you suffer from recurring panic attacks, which come on without warning and are marked by overwhelming feelings of anxiety, palpitation, nausea, dizziness, sweating, faintness, a feeling of impending doom or loss of control, you should know about a new book: *How to Overcome Anxiety*. This book contains the latest up-to-date information on Anxieties, Phobias and Panic Attacks — what causes anxiety, the physical symptoms that accompany it and the thoughts, feelings and behaviour that can lead to anxiety and panic attacks.

To order your copy of *How to Overcome Anxiety* send your name, address and the book title to: Camell plc, Dept. 045, Alresford, Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP with payment (cheque or Visa/Access with exp. date of £9.95 inclusive, allowing up to 14 days for delivery. You can return the book at any time for a full refund if not satisfied.



Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Discover Thursday Plantation Tea Tree Antiseptic Cream

A pure, natural and gently soothing cream. Contains pure Tea Tree Oil, the natural antiseptic.

Available from Health Food Stores, Holland & Barrett, and chemists nationwide.

Janet Daley



■ Everyone agrees that welfare spending must be reformed, but no one wants the job of doing it

The Queen's Speech was designed to offer the Opposition few soft targets, but there is at least one new policy into which Labour will gleefully sink its teeth. Thousands of people will be worse off as a result of a change in the way invalidity payment is to be made. Instead of being able to slip more or less automatically onto invalidity benefit after six months on sick pay, candidates will have to come before a board. GPs will no longer be put in the invidious position of being the sole judges of their patients' fitness to work. As a consequence, a great many people who are now officially classified as "invalids" will be discovered to be simply unemployed — although receiving the extra allowance due to the infirm.

This will provide a splendid opportunity for Labour (and its friends in the opinion-forming classes) to shriek about Tory cruelty. Peter Lilley will, no doubt, try to inject some coherent argument into this diatribe. He will point out that the misuse of invalidity status is defrauding the social services on an enormous scale. Even those who are in favour of high welfare spending should approve of a reform which will allow money to be spent where it is most needed, rather than disappearing uncontrollably in ways that were never intended. But his words will be lost in a din of phony outrage.

To save some time, let's run through the righteous chorus in advance: "victimising the most vulnerable" — "heartless penalisation of the sick" — "robbing the chronically ill to pay for tax cuts for the rich" — "blatant. There. When you hear all the shouting, remember this: no responsible government can avoid the need to reform abuses of the welfare state. Tightening up the rules on invalidity benefit — which is now one of the fastest growing categories of welfare spending — would have to be one of the first objectives of any Social Security Secretary who wanted to make good (and benevolent) use of his budget.

In public, Mr Blair and his colleagues will rail against this change, but in private they will breathe a sigh of relief that it was a Tory who did what was needed, so saving them from some opprobrium when they get into office. (At which time — I will bet anyone a bottle of good claret — they will leave this reform in place, unscathed.)

Mr Lilley will suffer all this for the merest tinkering — or a reform which is unobjectionable because it seeks to correct a blatant abuse of welfare funds. What would be done to any Social Security Secretary who took on the real problems of the welfare state is too grisly to con-

plate. The Labour front bench may admit in principle that the entire social security system needs to be reconstructed — too much money is being given out indiscriminately and too little of it arrives where it is needed — but in office, they too would come up against the logic of the Eternal Beneficiary: people who receive regular payments from the state come to think of them as an inalienable right.

It was one of the shibboleths of Thatcherism that welfare dependency was debilitating to society. Everyone, in this respect, is a Thatcherite now. Mr Blair embraces the need for motivation and self-reliance as passionately as any (well, almost any) Conservative. But, given office, what would he do?

If you change benefit eligibility at a stroke, as is to happen with invalidity, you reap a whirlwind of protest. If you phase in changes, as with the equalising of the pension age, you soon reach a morally uncomfortable stage where some people are collecting benefits for which others in identical circumstances are ineligible.

More important, what is the goal toward which all this is striving? Do we want the welfare state to be a safety-net for the poor and desperately ill? Or is it a social bond? There will be those in Mr Blair's camp who argue that universal benefits symbolise a communality of interests — that the fashionable idea of targeting the most needy for payments would divide the nation even more damagingly into haves and have-nots.

There is no better example of the consequences of targeting than the social decline of council estates. Whereas councils once housed whole communities which had been evacuated by slum clearance, they now restrict their help to the people in most need.

In other words, housing is provided for the long-term unemployed, single parents and families with chronic disadvantages. Some more successful people have bought their council homes, but the bleaker estates have become no-hope ghettos where adults subsidise into defeatism, and pathological boredom pulls youngsters into crime.

And yet, sending money where it will do most good must be the only way forward. Universal benefits are a sham if they do not keep pace with the cost of living, and to do that they must break the bank — and deprive those in true need of substantial help. Even for the well-intentioned, there is no comfortable way out of this morass. Until we find one, let us at least conduct the argument honestly.

A few MPs could withdraw support...



...resulting in crisis...



...on a vote of no confidence.



...and a general election.



Collective responsibility collapses...



Poor man.



Thatcher or de Gaulle?

Italy's ruling double-act is divided — yet condemned to work together

When one visits Gianfranco Fini at the offices of the National Alliance in Rome, one sees at once that his party, which may once have been fascist, is not corrupt. The offices have the air of poverty-stricken enthusiasm that one would associate with the Liberal Democrats in Britain. I was driven there by a one-armed veterinary surgeon who has been a Fascist since the 1940s. His motives appeared to be purely patriotic. He volunteered for the Italian army at the age of 14, was wounded at Anzio and gave his gratuity to a fund for war widows; he lost his right arm in a scooter accident 25 years ago. If Gianfranco Fini told him to jump out of a window, I believe he would do it. I liked him.

Such patriotism is not ignoble, though fascism can obviously have terrible results. Signor Fini himself leads what was originally a fascist party, but is so no longer. He is something we have only limited experience of in Britain, a Catholic intellectual in the Latin tradition, intense, thoughtful and somewhat theatrical.

After an hour's conversation last week, I was left in no doubt that Fini is a democrat. We discussed at some length his constitutional proposals. Like Silvio Berlusconi, he is convinced that Italy needs a transformation. The difference between them is that Berlusconi, the successful entrepreneur, sees the transformation primarily as an economic one, the creation of a competitive private enterprise state. Berlusconi is a Thatcherite. Fini sees the transformation as primarily political: he doubts the relevance of post-war British experience and admires De Gaulle more than any other post-war European leader, because "he gave life to a new model" of France. His chief objective is to win a parliamentary majority for a Gaullist constitution for Italy, with a strong president supervising the work of the prime minister. Significantly, he wants the more accountable limit of a four-year term for the president, and not the full seven years which makes French presidents so dominant.

Italy's political future depends upon the relationship between these two men, who are inevitably both partners and rivals. Berlusconi and Fini — Thatcherite and Gaullist, entrepreneur and intellectual, self-made man and academic, entrepreneur and inquirer, businessman and politician, activist and philosopher, pro-

vide a fascinating series of contrasts. They have to stay together if either is to achieve his objective: only their partnership can defeat the Left, or prevent a return to the old politics. Fortunately, both are convinced that Italy has to be remade, economically, politically and constitutionally. They are right.

We need not worry about the Fascist past. Mussolini is not about to climb out of his tomb. More worrying is the position of Fini and the National League: roughly where the "wets" were in the early Thatcher years. Fini is a strong European.

"The true unity of Europe must above all be political," he told me; he would give more power to the European Parliament; he sees the Commission becoming "a kind of European government"; he regards the present European structure as too narrow, and would like it extended particularly to defence. He does not see a conflict between his Italian nationalism — which is strong — and his European beliefs. "One can only be a good European if one is a good Italian."

This extreme Europeanism is founded on his Catholic faith. "Christianity," he said, "is the basis of European unity. When I think of Europe, I do not think of banks. I think of cathedrals." Indeed for a man supposedly of the Right, he is surprisingly suspicious of bankers. His party has been cool about the privatisation which is so necessary in Italy. He himself displays the underlying suspicion of capitalism that exists in Catholic social teaching. This aspect of his thought puts him quite close to Jacques Delors.

The counterweight to Gianfranco Fini's rather corporatist Europeanism is Antonio Martino, the Foreign Minister. He is, I think, an invaluable, perhaps irreplaceable, figure in the balance that Silvio Berlusconi has to maintain. His immediate concern is proper preparation of the agenda for the 1996 post-Maastricht negotiations. He believes that the European Community "should only do what the European govern-

ments cannot do for themselves" — a version of the doctrine of subsidiarity which Berlusconi fully supports. Signor Martino does not want European interference, he does not want to give more power to the European Parliament or to the Commission. He is prepared to adopt a single currency, provided it is not inflationary. He does not accept that a single currency means a single state, any more than the gold standard did. He thinks that the social charter signed by an earlier Italian Government could potentially cause disastrous unemployment in southern Italy and Sicily. He believes that government is best "where it is smallest and closest to the people."

It is not going to be easy for Silvio Berlusconi to hold these views together. The Prime Minister is a cautious pragmatist on Europe, concentrating now on the reconstruction of Italy; the Foreign Minister is a believer in de Gaulle's concept of *L'Europe des patries*, and a convinced free-trader; the leader of the second party in the coalition is a Catholic and a good European, contemplating with equanimity a single European state. There is, however, a concern which Gianfranco Fini also expresses: he is worried by the imbalance between a reunited Germany and the rest of the European Union. "Germany is economically and geographically in the most favourable position to enter East European markets, and has the money. The great danger is that Europe has its central point in Germany; it should not have one centre but various centres. That is the bomb that may go off."

Signor Martino expresses a similar opinion. He does not think that "a United States of Europe under German leadership" [a phrase I had borrowed from Kaiser Wilhelm] would be acceptable to any Mediterranean country, or indeed to France, any more than to Britain or Denmark. I did not put this German issue to Silvio Berlusconi, but he observed that the principle of subsidiarity had been violated in past years, and that the individual nations had to "gain

back freedom of decision-making to meet a country's specific needs."

I left Rome very optimistic about the prospects for Italy. Much wasted energy can be released by privatisation and deregulation. Social statistics suggest that Italy has a natural majority of the Right; the four million small businesses are the strength of the Italian economy, and those families who own a share in them are the anchor of Italian politics. Berlusconi now approaches the low point of a reforming government, when the seed has been planted but Thanksgiving Day is far off. Nevertheless, his alliance with Fini will not be broken, because neither side can afford it, and old Christian Democrat voters will increasingly be drawn towards the new democratic right. I worry about the National Alliance, not because I think it is still fascist but because it has not yet faced up to the policies needed for economic reform.

All this century, Italy has suffered from the defects of weak democracy. It was that which made Fascism attractive, just as the weaknesses of the Weimar democracy put Hitler in power. Like France, Italy needs a strong rather than a weak democratic constitution, and the French presidential model, modified to a four-year term, would be a good one. It could save democracy in Italy. If the present coalition puts constitutional reform to the Italian people at the next election, it will probably win.

I would like Signor Fini to visit Hong Kong, where he could see how a modern economy really works, and talk to Chris Patten, another serious Catholic politician much influenced by the Church's social theory. In the early Thatcher years, Chris Patten was as "wet" as Gianfranco Fini is now, for similar attractive reasons of idealism. Hong Kong has dried him out, and it might help to dry out Fini.

In the meantime, the new Italian regime has much to contribute to Europe. Antonio Martino may well be the only European Foreign Minister with a strong intellectual grasp of economics. His belief that government should be as close to the people as possible is much more realistic than the grandiose structures of a single European state. That policy would also reduce the fear of an over-dominant Germany. Each European nation needs room to follow its own national development in its own way.

Mr Major, what are you for?

Inertia is not enough, says Peter Riddell

Whoever takes over from Sarah Hogg as head of the Downing Street Policy Unit early next year faces the big challenge of defining what, after the crusading years of Thatcherism, a Conservative Government is for?

John Major's answer yesterday was that it should remedy grievances and ensure prosperity. This does not mean the Government has run out of steam. The Commons is not going to be idle or short of controversy. The jobs/leisure allowance and disability rights Bills will provoke plenty of argument across the chamber. The measure to expand the European budget is already reopening Tory divisions, though Mr Major made plain that he intends to force the pace and treat the Bill as an issue of confidence. This is in marked contrast to the lengthy manoeuvring of the Maastricht battles. The Prime Minister is not going to be pushed around by the Euro-skeptics, as he was then. There will be revivals, but there is little doubt that the Bill will be approved.

But as yesterday's lacklustre debate suggested, there is little passion or excitement about the Government's programme. There will be few demonstrations over the privatisation of the Crown Agents or the commercial activities of the Atomic Energy Authority. Several Bills may help to improve the supply side of the economy, but most are completing the agenda of the past decade: for instance, promoting greater competition in the gas industry.

Mr Major himself signalled a shift to a strategy of consolidation in his party conference speech a month ago. There is nothing inherently wrong with this. The Government has to rebuild bridges to its supporters and to offended interest groups, as Gillian Shephard is now doing with teachers. And as Mr Major stresses, the economic background is favourable, with confirmation coming yesterday that inflation remains low and unemployment has fallen to around 24 million. Mr Major and his new advisers should be able to devise an election campaign around the themes of competent government, sustained economic growth, cuts in income tax, and waving the flag, both by sounding a nationalistic note over Europe and in arguing against constitutional reform. These tactics will present ample problems for Labour.

But this does not answer the basic question of why voters should give the Tories a record fifth term. Wanting to remain in office is insufficient. We have become so used to a Tory Government as a radical crusading force that it takes time to adjust to a more managerial style, with problems being alleviated rather than institutions being turned upside down.

During the Tories' years in office from 1951 to 1964, the keynote was consolidation. There was less of a consensus than has subsequently been claimed, but the Tories retained most of the structure of welfare capitalism created in the 1940s, and removing some of the restrictions imposed by the post-war Labour Government. The early 1950s were, for example, the years of Walter Mondragon's appeasement of the unions. It was only with the Heath Government and its "quiet revolution" — though neither quiet, in practice nor revolutionary in achievement — that the Tories aspired to be the party of radical change. The timing was not right for Heath, but it was for Margaret Thatcher, who had the determination to challenge the post-war settlement.

Back at the start of the Thatcher era, Sir John Hoskyns, Mrs Hogg's predecessor as head of the Policy Unit from 1979 until 1982, defined the priorities as financial stabilisation, containment of public-sector pay, removal of the inflation-link in public spending, trade union reform and ending the invincibility of the National Union of Mineworkers. All these goals were achieved long ago.

Mr Major has not defined a similarly clear programme. He has concentrated on problems left over at the end of the Thatcher era, particularly the economy and Europe. By temperament and circumstance, he has found it hard to articulate new goals. His emphasis on improving public services has been correct, but initiatives such as the Citizen's Charter have failed to inspire the public. Nor has he offered his party a lead.

Instead, we have had the type of managerial reformism typified by yesterday's Queen's Speech. Many voters will welcome it. And as Mr Major is found of saying, the man in the Birmingham pub is not clamouring for the Big Idea, or for more upheavals. Yet a "safety first" or "trust me" appeal is seldom sufficient. It only works when the public is frightened about electing the main Opposition party. When they are not, as in 1929, 1945 or 1964, the Tories are vulnerable. Change for change's sake is silly, but the Tories now need to define where they are distinctive and fresh. The Downing Street Policy Unit has been accused of concentrating too much on short-term problems, of which there have been plenty. Its new head needs to focus on the longer term. But, first, Mr Major needs to decide how he would use another period in office.

Won't dance

THE coup de grace has been executed, I hear, on Covent Garden's extraordinary new ballet. For the avant garde choreographer Michael Clark, once dubbed the "bad boy of ballet", has suddenly pulled out, forcing the cancellation of the world premiere of the untried work, scheduled for December 1.

Rumours of trouble have been circulating around the dance world for some weeks. "He has a notoriously long creative process," sighs an insider. The new work, an exceptionally rare project for the Royal Ballet, was always going to be contentious, given Clark's love of role-playing and his one-time dependency on drugs and drink. The work was to have featured 101 guitarists on stage, although some sceptics wondered if there would be space enough for dancers.

Covent Garden's Amanda Jones now confesses to me that Clark is pulling out because he has not managed to finish the work in time. "He explained this on Tuesday night to Anthony Dowell, director of the company, who was very disappointed to lose a new ballet."

She admits that Clark may have

found it difficult to work within the repertory system. But not all of the choreographer's efforts will be lost. As part of the company's regional tour next year, the Royal Ballet will try to salvage a seven-minute *pas de deux* passage.

■ Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler sadly missed Tuesday night's debate at the Oxford Union, as he was obliged to read out the Queen's Speech to the Cabinet on the eve of the new

I SEE THE FOX IS CHASING THE HOUNDS



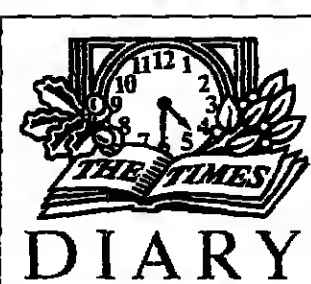
session. However, Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley did venture to Oxford to propose the motion "this House would rather make the news than report it". He had, his people tell me, already had a sneak preview.

Lens man

CHRISTOPHER BIGGINS, the Bunteresque actor and comedian, was sporting a new bare-faced look at Tuesday's Fantasy Ball in aid of Imperial Cancer Research at the Grosvenor House Hotel. Shouting over the cacophony of fireworks, he explained why he had abandoned his large trademark red spectacles. "Everyone has noticed that I am not wearing them. I have just discovered the joy of those marvellous disposable contact lenses," he boomed, before twinkling off to conduct the auction.

Box clever

AS THE DUBLIN Government ignored supporters of the Ireland Fund gathered for their annual luncheon at London's Banqueting House, the Irish tycoon Tony O'Reilly was taking a break from debating the latest twists to muse on his first love: rugby football. "Of course, I shall be going to South



Africa for the World Cup next year," he told me. "Why do you think I bought newspapers down there earlier this year? The first thing I checked was that they had boxes at the grounds."

Lordy!

TO SECOND the loyal address on the Lords' big day is a great honour, traditionally bestowed on a promising young "hereditary" on probation for the Tory front bench. The 10th Earl of Lindsay, 30 this Saturday, performed the role swimmingly yesterday.

Yet I hear that his loyalty was in question at the last election, on a parliamentary visit to the Camerons at the time. "Jamie" Lindsay, a keen "green", and his fellow peers were startled by John Major's victory. "We were all tuned in

to the BBC World Service — but none of us, including Jamie, thought he stood a cat's chance in hell of winning," says one colleague.

Operators

ROY LILLEY, the chairman of Homewood NHS trust, may not rate patients very high in the scale of priorities, but he appears to have no more sympathy for doctors. The self-made millionaire has penned a guide for patients called *Streetside Patients: How to get the best out of the NHS*, in which he recommends that patients assertively question their consultants' qualifications and results.

His co-author is John Spiers, who was recently ousted from his job as chairman of Brighton health trust after a vote of no confidence — by consultants.

Hurd it

DOUGLAS HURD, who cut such a distinguished figure in his Austrian Loden coat, is rightly proud of his eldest son's latest sartorial enterprise. For Nicholas, much admired by female undergraduates while at Oxford, has been modelling an Aran jersey for the up-market Boden clothing catalogue.



With nobis in: Hurd junior

The eponymous owner, Johnnie Boden, says: "Nick was a model in our model. We are old chums from university, and I like to use friends as models. My baby daughter Anna is required to pose occasionally — and I've even got Lord Oaksey to model a poacher's jacket."

● A lesser Mellor beckons. For the decidedly flabby Putney MP has agreed to be sponsored by the hour to fast for Oxford tomorrow.

P.H.S



THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

'My Government will do little more than govern'

After 15 years in office, the Conservative revolution is more or less complete, at least according to the Prime Minister. What remains to be achieved lies outside the scope of legislative change: the ordered running of the economy, the protection of Britain's interests in Europe and the attempt to secure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

To say that all the reforms which cried out for attention in earlier years have now been carried through is to make a perfectly respectable argument. Even the privatisation of the Post Office, it can be said, was shirked by that great advocate of permanent revolution, Margaret Thatcher. The argument lacks force, however, and chiefly because it so obviously stemmed from expediency, not conviction. John Major's cry for consolidation seemed to have more to do with his shrinking majority than his political beliefs. The public could be forgiven for viewing this Queen's Speech rather as a retreat in the face of backbenchers than as a quiet confirmation that successive Tory governments have achieved all that was necessary to transform Britain.

Many of the measures are corrective attempts to tidy reforms that were badly designed in the first place. Thus, the Gas Bill will challenge the monopoly powers of the privatised British Gas; the Health Service Bill will tackle the excess bureaucracy of the reformed NHS; and the Mental Health (Supervised Discharge) Bill will address some of the weaknesses in the community care policy. Some are barely even party political: the Criminal Appeal Bill to introduce an independent body to review possible miscarriages of justice should be welcomed by all sides, as should the long-awaited Bill to enable the Channel Tunnel fast link to be built. The most contentious measure — the European Community (Finance) Bill — will draw its opposition in the first place from the Government's own benches.

It is, however, testimony to the success of both Baroness Thatcher and Mr Major in

changing the country's agenda that two measures in yesterday's speech might have been deemed politically unthinkable five or ten years ago. It has been long known that unequal pension ages for men and women are not just anomalous but probably illegal. When the latter was confirmed by the European Court, there was a fear that the Government would opt either for the expensive but popular option of equalisation at 60 or for splitting the difference at 63. Instead, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, has bravely chosen 65 for both sexes: that is the most rational solution, and the one that is financially, but by no means politically, the cheapest. Mr Lilley also has a hand in the other controversial legislation, the Jobseeker's Allowance Bill, which both shortens entitlement to unemployment benefit and strengthens pressure on the unemployed to look for and be available for work.

Despite the nature of these Bills, the tone of the programme suggests that the next election is unlikely to be fought between two parties bursting with new ideas. Rather, as in 1994, the governing party is likely to stress competence, experience and the state of the economy in contrast to the dangerous radicalism and inexperience of Labour. If the country is still, by then, in the mood for consolidation, such a formula could be popular, particularly if it allows the Tories to keep an advantage over Labour on Europe.

Now, as then, Labour has a new, youthful leader. Like Harold Wilson, Tony Blair spouts attractive generalities that have not been put to the test. Like Alec Douglas-Home, Mr Major will, by 1996 or 1997, have presided over several years of economic success. And it has to be remembered that Lord Home very nearly won. There is a difference, however. Lord Home had not, only a few years before the election, lost the confidence of the British people in his ability to manage the economy and keep his election promises. Regaining that trust will be Mr Major's hardest task.

EASTERN FIST

Indonesia cannot afford an occupied East Timor

Two occupations have this week stolen the attention which President Suharto of Indonesia had reserved for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum. The first, an act of despair, is the occupation of the grounds of the American Embassy in Jakarta, by 20,000 students; the second, an occupation as old as some of the protesting students, is of East Timor itself, shackled to Indonesia since 1976 as that country's 'twenty-seventh province'.

Given the guest-list at the Apec forum, it was unlikely that human rights in occupied East Timor — or in Indonesia, for that matter — would be accorded a prominent place on the agenda. But, although the politics of trade prevailed in the end over the politics of rights, firm and forceful criticism has come from the one quarter that should matter most to General Suharto, the administration in Washington.

Recent riots by students in Djili, the capital of occupied East Timor, suggest that the Timorese remain as alienated from Indonesia as they ever were. General Suharto has sought to convince his critics abroad that his administration has now adopted a more enlivened approach to the Timor question. He has pointed repeatedly to the fact that Ali Alatas, his foreign minister, renowned for describing the 'twenty-seventh province' as 'like a sharp piece of gravel in our shoes', had talks in New York earlier this year with José Ramos Horta, the exiled Timorese leader. What he has failed to point out is that Mr Alatas refused firmly to discuss the status of the territory with Mr Ramos Horta.

General Suharto has said, also, that he

would consider 'very soon' the grant of autonomy or special status to the Timorese. He has failed to point out that what is meant by autonomy in the lexicon of his administration bears no relation to the concept as understood in a democratic society. Senior spokesmen for his government have stressed that 'the autonomy in East Timor has to be the same as the autonomy in other provinces'.

The Timorese are not impressed by these empty palliatives. Nor should others be. In the 18 years of their vassalage to Jakarta, over 200,000 have been murdered by the Indonesian armed forces. The Timorese have witnessed, also, the illegal colonisation of their lands by some 100,000 Javanese, the imposition of an alien language and systematic assaults on their culture and religion. Yet while its methods are harshest in occupied East Timor, General Suharto's government has abused its powers in the 26 other provinces of the unwieldy archipelago: newspapers are banned arbitrarily, union members are imprisoned and counter-insurgency campaigns in Aceh and Irian Jaya have led to a disconcerting pattern of human rights violations.

It is the Timorese, however, who command immediate attention. Their subjugation only serves Jakarta ill. The cost to General Suharto of holding Djili is more than merely financial: it is, most tellingly, a drain on the dwindling fund of good will which the General has with his democratic allies in the western world. Indonesia cannot afford to persevere with an occupation which saps its political, retards its modernity and offers nothing but opprobrium in return.

LOOK BEHIND YOU!

If Widow Twankey doesn't get you, Wishee-Washee will

Robin Hood, Robin Hood, with tap-dancer's whirled, Robin Hood, Robin Hood, in his female curls,

Looks like a Ms, and so he is. Robin Hood, Robin Hood, principal girl. England's oldest living legend can be seen again next month at the Old Town Hall, Hemel Hempstead. And the mention of old legends does not imply that Robin Hood is being performed by Ian Botham. Robin is also appearing at the Grand Theatre & Opera House at Leeds, accompanied by the Babes in the Wood instead of Friar Tuck, and in a dozen other theatres from London to Middlesbrough, and Exeter to Inverness. Other myths waiting in the wings for their annual cues include a dozen Cinderellas, more Aladdins than you would care to shake a lamp at, enough Dick Whittingtons to start a cattery, Jack the Giant Killer was first performed at Drury Lane in 1773, and has hardly missed a year since.

Today we list a selection from more than 250 pantomimes and Christmas shows for the winter season. With summer festivals, these are the most enduring productions of British theatrical life, to the indignation of the high-minded. British summer weather works against the former. Everything ought to be against the latter.

Although most foreigners find pantomime incomprehensible, stars of Australian soap operas are happy to earn pantomime money for turning their famous faces to buffoonery

or sentimental spoonery. Equity tried complaining that its out-of-work members could play the undemanding roles given to celebrities. But a personality or at least a recognisable face from children's television has become as essential a draw as Dan Leno and Marie Lloyd were a century ago. And Botham is now a veteran pantomimic.

The catchphrases and jokes are unrecognisable to those who are not addicts of the simpler television programmes, and the transvestism is odd. The slapstick of brokers' men wallpapering rooms is coarse and the jokes are suggestive, if not explicit. Far from being in dumb show, as its etymology suggests, pantomime is a constant stream of bad jokes and repartee.

The snooty explanation would be to deplore British theatrical taste. But popular taste is by definition vulgar. Tragedy and comedy had their roots in a mixture of song, dance, myth and topical references. Some of them are as unintelligible today as the references to *EastEnders* will be in a century. Many local theatres survive for the rest of the year (to stage more adventurous productions) on the money they make from their Christmas shows. Anything that gets families off their television sofas into a communal jaunt is good, even if all that they hear is fall-out from television. The glitter and vulgarity are Dickensian and Falstaffian. Nobody has to go. But nobody should sneer at something that has remained popular for so long.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Where doctors' loyalties should lie

From Mrs Rosie Varley

Sir, I am deeply concerned by the remarks made by Roy Lilley, Chairman of Homewood NHS Trust (report, November 14). The suggestion that a doctor's first loyalty is to his employer rather than the patient is a perversion of the reason d'être of NHS trusts. These trusts exist to enable clinicians to meet the needs of patients in the most effective and efficient way. Managers must serve doctors.

Certainly resources are finite and tensions sometimes arise between the need of an individual and the necessity to maximise the benefit to the community. Whereas in the past these issues were disguised by the arbitrary mechanism of the waiting list, they are now being resolved through the contracting process between NHS trusts and health service purchasers in which, of course, clinicians should be fully involved.

As expensive drugs and treatments become available, protocols must be agreed between doctors and managers as to whom they should be given, in which circumstances, and at what cost. Such teamwork lies at the heart of NHS trusts and it allows local priorities to be established on the basis of clinical and objective data.

Mr Lilley is expressing an individual view; the larger experience shows that doctors are keen to work with managers in operating these procedures.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
ROSIE VARLEY (Chairman, Mid-Anglia Community NHS Trust),
Crown Yard, Herring Lane,
Burnham Market, Norfolk.
November 14.

From Ms Karen Blakeley

Sir, Your leading article, 'Hippocratic trusts' (November 14), stated that 'doctors must ensure that they are loyal to the organisation they serve. No patient could possibly disagree with that'.

In my view the idea of an individual being loyal to an organisation is dangerous and naive. Unfortunately organisations are often coalitions of distinct interest groups all trying to battle for the right to determine the values and goals upheld by the organisation at any one time. Many of these interest groups would assert that they are being loyal to the organisation by fighting for their values against those of the dominant coalition.

This, I believe, is what the BMA is doing with regard to the present issue. Personally, I would rather have doctors and other carers define the values and goals of NHS trusts than business appointees of the Conservative Government.

Yours faithfully,
KAREN BLAKELEY,
Riverside House, Wildmoor,
Sherfield on Loddon,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
November 14.

Active sleep

From Dr Adrian Williams

Sir, Lord Longford's unfortunate bump on the head during his dream about tennis (as reported in Nigel Hawkes's Science Briefing, November 14) may have led some readers to wonder why injuries are not more common during dreaming sleep.

Acting on dreams is prevented, in fact, by inhibiting muscle activity. A defining characteristic of the phase of sleep during which most dreaming occurs (rapid eye movement, or REM sleep) is inhibition of activity or tone in all muscles except the diaphragm and those producing eye movements.

Persistence of this 'active' paralysis into wakefulness occasionally occurs briefly in the morning when it is

From Mr James Johnson

Sir, NHS trusts have not diminished the doctors' role in the organisation of the hospital, as your leading article suggests. The very reverse is true. In my own hospital, as in many others, prior to the NHS reforms, the management was conducted by lay people advised by a medical executive committee. Now the majority of the management board consists of clinical directors, i.e., doctors.

This gives doctors an increasing responsibility and influence in management. We are moving in this direction but this trend will not be helped by irresponsible language, from whatever quarter.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JOHNSON
(Chairman, Central Consultants and Specialists Committee),
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WCI,
November 14.

From Mrs Mikaela Stointon

Sir, Congratulations on your editorial. Consultants and the BMA appear to tolerate no criticism of their practices — no matter how justified — as anyone reading exactly what Mr Roy Lilley said would agree.

What is 'hippocratic' about the practice of ganging up and refusing to accept rules and standards which apply to all other professions where human life is at risk?

Yours faithfully,
MIKAELA STOINTON,
Combe Manor,
Hastings, Ashford, Kent.
November 15.

From Mr T. F. W. Mackeown

Sir, Your report (November 7) that the number of managers in the NHS is now over 20,000 after a rise of 13 per cent in a year makes one wonder if there is any central control over these appointments.

During the 18 years 1946 to 1964 when I was administrator of the University College Hospital Group with, at one time, over 1,100 beds, there were no other managers there. With its full complement of medical, paramedical and nursing staff the hospital ran well to the general satisfaction of patients, staff and the local community which it served.

Such management as was necessary was largely the responsibility of the head of the department concerned, and he, or she, was controlled by the departmental budget which acted as a successful check on overspending.

With the exception of the current managers can there be anyone who approves of the apparent power given to hospital managers today?

Yours faithfully,
T. F. W. MACKEOWN,
4 West Hill Court,
Millfield Lane, N6,
November 7.

known as sleep paralysis. A loss of this active inhibition of motor activity was induced experimentally in cats by the French neurophysiologist Jouvet in 1976. These animals were then observed to move around during sleep as if stalking (is this evidence that they dream?).

The first instances in humans were described in 1986 and subsequently such REM-sleep behaviour disorder has been increasingly recognised and often gratifyingly treated.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. WILLIAMS
(Co-Director),
UMDS Sleep Disorders Centre,
Lane-Fox Respiratory Unit,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,
November 15.

Trade marks trap

From Mr Keith Havelock

Sir, In addition to the changes in the law concerning the protection of trade marks in the United Kingdom brought about by the Trade Marks Act 1994 (letters, November 7, 14), a very significant change affecting overseas rights will take place when the United Kingdom ratifies the Madrid Protocol in 1995.

The new Act gives the Secretary of State power to put the provisions of this international agreement into effect quickly and this will enable British companies for the first time to file applications for registration of their marks in a large number of countries simultaneously by means of a single deposit.

It will also become possible, later, for British companies to register marks under the Community Trade Mark Regulation, applicable across the whole of the expanding European Union. This could be even more significant as the regulation is a completely new law producing one registration covering the whole area of the Union, whereas the Madrid system produces in effect a bundle of applications capable of being refused country by country.

Yours truly,
KEITH HAVELLOCK (Partner),
D. Young & Co
(Patent and trade mark attorneys),
21 New Fetter Lane, EC4.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Discordant nights at the opera

From the General Director of the Royal Opera House

Sir, Bernard Levin ('A sound for sore eyes', November 11) asks why I did not, when Richard Jones showed me his ideas for *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre*, throw him downstairs. The answer is that I liked them, and still do.

He asks why the singers and the conductor did not refuse to go along with them. They perhaps will speak for themselves, but I can say that I was much encouraged, in the weeks before we opened, by the enthusiasm for the production the artists expressed to me, and by their commitment to it. Furthermore, they have said categorically that the great performances they gave were achieved working with the director, and not in spite of him.

Bernard Levin's repeated visits to Covent Garden for all our Wagner productions enliven your pages, and benefit our bar profits. I look forward to welcoming him to Siegfried.

Yours etc,
JEREMY ISAACS,
General Director,
Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden, WC2,
November 11.

From Mr Alan Thomas

Sir, Only a financial disaster will ensure that Jeremy Isaacs is never tempted to place rubbish before us again. We suffering dogs in the cramped, expensive seats (when will they ever rebuild the place?) must not buy tickets for *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*.

I am sorry for those who have already paid up for the full Ring cycle. They can return their tickets in the hope of a re-sale, albeit remote. For the rest of us, we should wait for conductors and stars to come to our rescue, as Bernard Levin suggests, and refuse to participate in such tomfoolery.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ALAN THOMAS,
9 Burnall Street, Chelsea, SW3,
November 12.

From June, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair

Sir, Hear, hear, Mr Levin, you speak for a growing number of us. Some years ago I took issue over a production of *Don Giovanni*, which was played partly in a public lavatory,

Falklands survivors

From Mr S. A. Macfarlane

Sir, As a fellow survivor of HMS *Coventry* and a senior rate who held Commander Richard Lane in high esteem I am very sad and feel for him and his family at this traumatic time ('Falklands officer with stress disorder dismissed for theft', November 8).

Post-traumatic stress disorder manifests itself in many ways and at the oddest of times, both close to the event and many years afterwards. There must have been more than the Royal Navy could have done to help someone who had borne that suffering than just providing counselling.

I have seen many instances of the effects of the Falklands War rising to the surface, some very sad and desperate. In one instance a leading seaman was sent home from sea classified as 'mentally unstable', because he could no longer face the stress of the atmosphere in the operations room of a Type 42 destroyer after the tragedy of HMS *Coventry*.

I note in your report that a Royal Navy spokeswoman confirmed that Commander Lane would have received counselling for his experiences

and, in spite of ravishing singers, appeared to have little relation to the story at all, but inevitably I was regarded as hopelessly old-fashioned.

Why are the music and the composers, not allowed to speak for themselves without this so-called 'updating'? They really do know best.

Yours faithfully,
JUNE GORDON,
Haddo House, Aberdeen.
November 11.

From Dr Jodie Harrison

Sir, Bernard Levin's diatribe contains one flaw. Might it not be the very qualities of imagination and re-thinking he so castigates in modern stagings of Wagner which bring out the best in the performers he so rightly applauds? Perhaps today's producers and designers work more magic than we realise.

Yours etc,
JAMIE HARRISON,
5 Dunelm Court,
South Street, Durham.

From Mrs Patricia Mommersteeg

Sir, I am so sad, Bernard Levin has become very old.

I have grown up along with him, relishing every word he has written about Wagner and Mozart. I am becoming old in years but my cheers of bravo for Richard Jones at Covent Garden and Deborah Warner at Glyndebourne were louder than any boo.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA MOMMERSTEEG,
Church House,
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott,
Nr Wellingborough,
Northamptonshire.

From Dr J. I. S. Robertson

Sir, Bernard Levin's incitement of distinguished musicians to withdraw their participation from inappropriately designed and produced operas is helpful. The artists are nevertheless at least paid to endure this embarrassment: the audience has to fork out.

It might assist further if designers were obliged to take their bows wearing some of the costumes presently foisted on others.

Yours faithfully,
J. I. S. ROBERTSON,
Elmbank,
Manse Road, Bowling, Glasgow.

in the Falklands. Her statement appears to imply aftercare as a matter of course, but I have never seen any evidence of that unless you realise you have a problem and ask for it. I personally was never offered any form of counselling and am not aware of any of my friends or colleagues having been either, yet there must be many more 'time bombs ticking away' out there.

It is worthy of note that the HMS *Coventry* memorial service can no longer be held in St Anne's Church in Portsmouth Naval Base due to budget considerations by a thoughtful and caring Royal Navy.

I can understand what must have been happening to Commander Lane. 'Survivor' was a dirty word for quite a period.

I hope time and patience will heal the scars and know without doubt that anyone else who suffers wishes him the very best for the future.

Yours faithfully,
SAM MACFARLANE
(Radio Supervisor,
HMS *Coventry*, 1982),
50 King George Road,
Walderslade, Chatham, Kent.
November 8.

Golf club parity

From Mrs Margaret Mole

Sir, I think your diatribe (November 8) may be somewhat naive to believe that the ladies of Northwood Golf Club have obtained equal membership rights through the gallantry and fair-mindedness of the new committee. Perhaps so, but in the club I belong to it was the discovery that we were contravening the Licensing Act, and thus putting the renewal of the liquor licence in jeopardy, that concentrated the minds of the gentlemen members so wonderfully.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET MOLE,
Merrywell Mews,
Five Wells Lane, Helston, Cornwall.

Out of order

From Mr Ansel Harris

Sir, Although modern biblical criticism is still debating the authorship of the Book of Psalms, there is no debate that it predated the Prayer Book (1549). So the quotation 'Put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man, for there is no help in them', the third verse of Psalm 146, did not appear 'originally in the Prayer Book' (Bernard Levin, November 15).

I, like Mr Levin, am tempted to write that my 'favourite recreation' is *Schadenfreude*.

Yours faithfully,
ANSEL HARRIS,
23 Ferncroft Avenue, NW3,
November 15.

Information costs

From Mr Andrew Hendrie

Sir, Since 1980 I have been studying the records of squadrons which served under the control of RAF Coastal Command, and I therefore read your letters on the cost of obtaining information (November 14) with some interest.

After writing three books covering operations of three types of aircraft, I intended writing one on the Wellington, and in January 1992 I requested an estimate of the cost of microfilm copies of the records of some of the Wellington squadrons. The Public Record Office at Kew sent me an invoice for £428.30, stating a 'unit price' of £47 per 100ft.

The National Archives in Canada, a commercial undertaking, is able to provide 100ft of film for \$14 (say £7). Charges from the USA for either USN or USAF records are comparable with the Canadian charges. Why can't we, too, privatise these services?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW HENDRIE,
Sandy Ridge, Amberley Road,
Storrington, West Sussex.
November 14.

Severn Bridge tolls

From Mr Richard Jones

Sir, I am informed that it costs nothing to drive to England (Mr Abbott's letter, November 12). To get out will soon cost £3.70.

No comment.
Yours faithfully,
RICHARD JAMES,
100 Newfoundland Road,
Gatcliffe, Cardiff.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 43

WORLD TRAVEL MARKET: A foothold in Eastern Europe... exotic holidays take off... is your agent environmentally challenged?

Risky Russia becomes big business

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

British travel agencies are cashing in on a huge increase in demand for travel, both business and leisure, to and from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Since the collapse of the old Soviet bloc, Western companies have scrambled to gain a foothold in a region which offers cheap local labour and huge, untapped potential. In St Petersburg alone, one company claims that its business travel has risen by 300 per cent and in Moscow the British Embassy now handles 10,000 visa applications a month.

Russia is changing rapidly as the country's middle class grows and foreign cars flood on to the city streets. *Executive Travel* magazine estimates that more than 55 million Russians are now shareholders in joint-stock companies or investment funds, and as the economies of former Soviet bloc countries continue to grow, the more East Europeans in turn can afford to travel. The UK is usually their first choice of European destination. In March this year, Thomas Cook recognised the potential for expansion and opened a new bureau in Moscow designed to cater for business travellers.

This week, at the World Travel Market, Hogg Robinson BTI announced it was joining forces with Epic, a leading travel agent in Russia, and Pegasus, a leading travel agent in Poland, to form Worldmark Travel.

David Young, chairman of Worldmark, says the region offers enormous opportunities. "Businesses are expanding rapidly. Since the collapse of communism, the face of business in the former Soviet Union has changed dramatically. Travellers are finding for the first time that they have actually visited contacts at farms in the Ukraine or oil fields in Kazakhstan, rather than deal through one central office in Moscow."

"With each republic now responsible for its own infrastructure, and having its own border controls, making arrangements with differ-

ent air carriers and ensuring that you have the correct number of suitable visas can be a nightmare."

But while East European countries are desperate for western dollars, so are the racketeers who control many of the local enterprises. The Control Risks Group (CRG), a London-based consultancy which advises large companies on security abroad, rates Russia as medium risk because of the continued political instability, growing organised criminal 'violence' and extortion, kidnapping and counterfeiting.

In the first five months of this year, 65 foreigners were killed and it is common practice for firms to provide a bodyguard for employees as part of the relocation package.

Christopher Grose, CRG's managing director, says companies moving into Russia will probably encounter an extortion attempt, sometimes very serious, sometimes not, because they are seen as wealthy.

Worldmark recommends westerners in Russia to use hotel taxis even if they are more expensive, not to wear ostentatious western-style clothing, to carry spending money only, not to resist muggers and to leave the light and radio on in your hotel room when they go out.

Intourist, formerly the government tourist agency in Russia and now a private enterprise, opened a branch office in St Petersburg earlier this year, and is in the process of renovating a city-centre hotel in Moscow.

Thomas Cook opened its first permanent business travel management centre in Russia in March this year.

A new Czech tourist authority has just been established, and CSA Czechoslovak Airlines offers 13 direct weekly flights between London and Prague.

"The region still has its problems, however: cancellations, long delays and overloading of passengers on internal flights are still frequent. Experienced travellers tend to make arrangements to fly directly to their destination on an international flight."



A villager in Tarabuco, Bolivia, one of many countries eager to become an exotic holiday destination

Tourism's next big hit

THOUSANDS of representatives of the world's travel industry are meeting in London for their annual attempt at spotting next year's "fashionable" destinations, writes Marianne Curphey. The World Travel Market (WTM) — the international travel industry's shop window on the world — is where tour operators, airlines and travel agents negotiate, gossip and try to predict trends.

This year, Uruguay, Bolivia, Uganda, Nigeria and Kazakhstan joined the clamour for tourists. Cambodia was to have been represented for the first time, but at the last minute it pulled out, citing financial difficulties. An attempted coup in the Gambia last Friday did not, however, prevent a delegation from the country's tourism industry setting up its stall.

The choice of destinations and holidays at this year's show, at London's Earl's Court, is greater than ever.

The fargeness of the WTM shows how swiftly the industry has grown and how exotic holidays can be. Trekking in the remotest regions of eastern Europe, lazing on an isolated island, diving in the waters of the Red Sea, riding on an elephant through the jungle of Thailand... the possibilities are legion.

Seven East European countries, including the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, doubled their space — a reflection of their increased interest in the dollar. Enormous competition exists among countries and resorts. Visitors will find themselves accosted by grown men in

rhinoceros costumes, comely wenches carrying foaming quarts and tourism representatives eager to ply them with wine.

It may seem like a game, but the business done is deadly serious. Organisations pay thousands of pounds for a stall, and staff work long hours in the hot, crowded exhibition hall to sell their country, county or airline's best features.

Travel is very big business: the World Travel and Tourism Council predicts that worldwide the industry accounts for 212 million jobs and that by 2005 the total will be 338 million.

Geoffrey Lipman, WTTC's president, called for fair, rather than punitive taxation on the industry; environmentally responsible development and more efficient border-clearance procedures.

Prosperity takes off in Poland

THE Polish national airline LOT is rapidly growing up in the cut-throat world of international aviation — in the same way as Poland itself is finding its feet more quickly than any of the former Soviet satellites.

Not only has LOT survived a three-month battle with British Airways, during which neither airline operated between Warsaw and London, but it has signed a marketing and code-sharing deal with American Airlines that should be particularly lucrative as the state-owned flag-carrier battles its way towards privatisation.

LOT in many ways reflects the whole Polish nation: tough — sometimes to the point of bloody-mindedness — put upon, but struggling through rapid modernisation and — surviving — to prove that it can compete with its western rivals.

Poland, of all the nations of the former Soviet Union, is on the point of breaking through to economic prosperity. The riches gained by a handful of entrepreneurs after communism's collapse and the introduction of the free market are now trickling down the social ladder. Shops that were lifeless shells when I visited Warsaw five years ago are thriving and packed with almost as many consumer goods as can be found in western provincial cities. Advertising hoardings and flashing neon signs dominate the busy and now brightly coloured streets.

Poland has become a crossroads for traders from East and West. Germans flock over the border to buy goods at low prices. Russians pack into trains to sell to Polish traders in the biggest open-air market I have ever seen on the stairs leading up to the terracing of a disused sports stadium near the city centre.

The number of visitors officially logged by Polish border guards is staggering. Last year, they say, 61 million people arrived, and this year it is likely to exceed 70 million. Of those, more than 42 million were from Germany and 104,800 from Britain. In the first seven months of

this year, however, more than 106,000 Britons have already passed through immigration, an estimated 12 per cent of them on business.

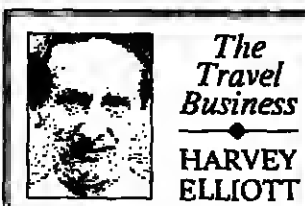
Five new four or five-star hotels have opened in Warsaw alone in the last five years. Poland now has the fastest economic growth rate in Europe. Its airline has also benefited from the improved economic position and, with 11 new Boeings and five French commuter planes, claims to have the youngest fleet of any significant European airline.

Two years ago a new airport, something most capital cities would yearn to have, was opened on the outskirts of Warsaw. The service in the air and on the ground is improving daily, the in-flight food on LOT is good and the schedules seem to have been organised so that they are not only convenient for passengers but also enable the airline to operate on time.

Yet it would be wrong to pretend that Warsaw is an attractive city compared with, say, Prague or Budapest. It was flattened during the war and rebuilt in the worst kind of Soviet brutalism style. The "Old Town" was reassembled from ancient plans after the war. That is why Poland's government is seeking to attract tourists to the countryside, and why it will soon launch a rural tourism initiative based on the Irish model, and designed to persuade people to take holidays in Poland's lakes, mountains and villages.

LOT officials know that they will benefit only on the margins from such a plan, and that they must aim at the business market if they are to survive the coming battles with the likes of Lufthansa and BA.

Poland has learnt over centuries of abuse that uprisings are often essential if it is to survive. One day, it just might become the epicentre of Europe's green tourism industry as its leaders predict. But for the moment it has entered the tough world of commerce and competition, and there are going to be many more bruising fights to win first.



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

Green call to operators

Holidaymakers are being asked to put pressure on tour operators to protect the environment well into the next century. Conservationists from the Born Free Foundation, the animal protection charity, want travellers to recommend holiday com-

panies which treat wildlife, people and places with respect.

CERT, the Campaign for Environmentally Responsible Tourism, has produced a series of simple guidelines to help tourists reduce their impact on the environment. It also wants travellers to report back on the behaviour of the tour company: were they warned not to throw litter, stay on marked roads, not interfere with animals, and not to

collect plants or buy certain wildlife souvenirs?

Established by the conservationists Bill Travers, Liz Gillings, a former worker with the British Council, and Virginia McKenna, CERT is asking tour operators to join its scheme and donate £1 per booking to wildlife projects.

Liz Gillings said: "Tourism is now the world's biggest industry, and by the turn of the century nearly 700,000 people a year will take an overseas vacation. They travel for many reasons and their combined impact can be immense. They can bring foreign currency and employment."

"However, without care, tourism can damage and even destroy natural habitats and ecosystems, threatening the future of wild animals and plants and speeding the process of extinction. Travellers are ideally placed to judge the environmental performance of their travel company."

"We are setting up a national award scheme based on travellers' returned questionnaires. This is not something tour operators can buy into."

Ms Gillings said she was moved to act after she saw a tourist throw a cigarette from a minibus in the Masai Mara game park in Kenya, which ignited a large section of bush and injured a leopard.

Four companies — Discover the World, Guerba, Dragoman and Tropical Places — have already agreed to the £1 per booking donation to environmental causes. British Airways Holidays, Somak Travel and Cox & Kings have also expressed an interest.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Lazio winner

Mr David Fagan, of Wood Green, London, was the winner of the competition announced in *The Times* Lazio special report of November 3. He wins a seven-day holiday for two to Lazio and Rome.

How to exploit the Channel

With the Shuttle to Calais due to start this month, Weekend Travel reports on Saturday on new ways to enjoy France.

PLUS: The pleasures of Ulster; and holidays in Cornwall

THE TIMES AIR FRANCE Take the ultimate business trip

Fifty pairs of Concorde tickets to New York must be won



If you have to travel on business, once in a while it pays to spoil yourself with a little touch of luxury. For 50 readers of *The Times*, that little touch will come in a striking supersonic shape — Air France in association with *The Times* is offering 50 pairs of tickets to New York on Concorde.

To enter the prize draw, simply answer the five questions listed on the coupon here and send it to the address below to arrive not later than the closing date of November 30, 1994.

Mr/Ms/Ms _____ Initials _____
Company Name/Address _____ Postcode _____
Secretary's name _____
No. of business trips made in the last 12 months? _____
What is your principle business destination? _____
Have you flown with Air France on business in the last 12 months? _____
YES/NO If so, what was your destination? _____
Are you an Air France cardholder? YES/NO _____
If you prefer not to receive any further communications from Air France/Times Newspapers Ltd, please tick this box. ☐
Please return to: Air France, Dept. LON/PU (T/M), Colet Court, 100 Harpersmith Road, London, W6 7JF.

1. Employees and their families of the organisers, their agents or anyone else connected with the prize draw cannot enter. 2. No cash alternative will be offered. 3. Tickets must be received by November 30, 1994 when the prize draw closes. 4. The winners will be notified by post by December 5, 1994. 5. A full list of winners will be printed in *The Times* on December 5, 1994. 6. The prize of a pair of Concorde tickets to New York on Air France does not include accommodation, 7. Prizes of a pair of Concorde tickets to New York on Air France from Paris and vice versa are included in the prize. All other arrangements are subject to availability. 8. Flights from New York to Paris will be made in Air France La Marseilles. 9. The prize draw is open to the residents of the UK only. 10. Winners' names must be completed by December 5, 1994. 11. One entry per person allowed. 12. No purchase necessary. Registered address: Air France, Colet Court, 100 Harpersmith Road, London, W6 7JF. Registered number: 200508.

Adventure New Zealand

Travel in the footsteps of Captain Cook, live with the Maoris, ride the Trans-Alpine Express... a 16-page report on New Zealand will be published with *The Times* tomorrow.

Bluebird express

First to France
Paris £87
Nice £129
Toulouse £145
Montpellier £145
First to Europe
Amsterdam £89
Brussels £105
Frankfurt £119
Zurich £149
Gibraltar £145
Palma £139
Rome £165
Athens £179

First to Canada

Vancouver £399
Montreal £314
Ottawa £314
Toronto £314

All scheduled flights prices do not include taxes.
Many more destinations available.

0444 235678

paint a
plane this
Christmas
Krishnaiz
5007.

Gess what? Your work of art could be painted on a real plane! Great! ok. the next bits boring so the grown ups can write it. Competition open to under 11s and 11-14s. Paint a Christmas picture on one side of a plane (max 5 colours, please leave wings blank). The best two designs

will be painted on a real plane and winners & families will fly on it. Put entrant's name, address, tel. and age on back of entry. Send to BA 'Paint a Plane', PO Box 100, Nelson, Lancs, BB9 8AT. Terms & conditions from same address. Closing date 28 Nov 1994. Great isn't it? Specially if you drawing better than your spelling (like me).

british airways
the world's favorite airline

NEWS

Major moves to crush Euro revolt

John Major appeared to have crushed a new Tory backbench revolt over Europe after threatening a reelection if he lost the Bill providing more money for the EU.

His pre-emptive strike overshadowed a Queen's speech that contained 13 measures including approval for the Channel rail link, more competition for the gas supply industry, an equal pension age and tighter controls on mentally ill patients released into the community. Pages 1, 10, 11

Childcare sweetener for Budget

Tax relief on childcare is being considered as a sweetener for the Budget as part of an effort to rebuild Tory support in the middle classes. The Chancellor is looking at options to provide help for working mothers, including vouchers for childcare and allowing tax relief at 20 or 15 per cent. Page 1

Reynolds collapse

The Irish Government collapsed when Dick Spring, the Deputy Prime Minister, announced that he would vote against Albert Reynolds at the end of a confidence debate. Page 1

Triple boost

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, enjoyed a triple boost from the British economy. Unemployment fell for the ninth month, inflation appears to be under control and public debt is declining. Page 1

Sex abuse action

The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland announced a new code of practice to stamp out child sexual abuse by priests after a series of cases in recent weeks. Page 2

Equerry accused

The former wife of an equerry to the Queen, convicted of failing to give a breath sample, said that she had endured years of violence but had been dissuaded from taking action because her husband worked for the Palace. Page 3

Baby couple freed

The British couple convicted of buying and attempting to smuggle a baby out of Romania had their jail sentences suspended by a Bucharest court. Page 5

On your bike

Plans for a national cycle network based around a 1,000-mile route linking Dover and Inverness were unveiled. Page 6

Six-figure price of overwork

A former social worker could win six-figure damages after he won a landmark High Court victory against his employers for exposing him to stress at work, driving him to a nervous breakdown. John Walker, 57, who said he was left "shell-shocked", became the first person to sue successfully for the injury caused to his health by overwork. Page 1

Victorian success

Prince Albert's Great Exhibition in the Crystal Palace 143 years ago was so successful that profits are still being given out. Page 7

Danger warning

The sole survivor of a holiday drowning tragedy in Cyprus, in which his wife and best friends died, admitted that they had seen a danger sign. Page 8

Tax demand

The Government is in danger of losing votes if it cuts taxes, according to the latest survey of British social attitudes. A majority of Conservatives now want to see higher taxes and more spending on the welfare state. Page 9

Bosnia demand

President Izetbegovic of Bosnia called on Nato to halt the Serb offensive against the Muslim-controlled enclave of Bihac in north-western Bosnia. Page 13

Trade fight

Jesse Helms, the ultra-conservative who will chair the Senate foreign relations committee, has picked his first fight with the Clinton Administration on the new world trade pact. Page 14

Ceasefire hope

A tentative truce in the Angolan civil war, which has ravaged the former Portuguese colony since independence two decades ago, was due to take effect prior to a more formal ceasefire. Page 15



General Sir Edward Burgess escorting the Imperial State Crown to Westminster yesterday for the State Opening of Parliament. Page 1

BUSINESS

Power: Britain's regional electricity companies may be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless they separate their distribution and supply activities, the electricity regulator, said. Page 25

Milk: Unigate said that new costs after the establishment of Milk Marque as a successor to the Milk Marketing Board would hit profits and force it to axe jobs. Page 25

TSB: The bank is considering moving its Treasury operation back to London, only seven months after relocating it to Birmingham at a cost of up to £6m. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE rose 11.0 to 3146.4. Sterling's index fell from 80.1 to 79.7 after a fall from \$1.5830 to \$1.5715 and from DM2.4468 to DM2.4374. Page 28

SPORT

Motor racing: The international motor sport federation may hold an inquiry into the collision between Michael Schumacher and Damon Hill at the Australian Grand Prix. Page 48

Tennis: Martina Navratilova went out in a blaze of all-American glory, when she lost the final singles match of her 22-year career to Gabriela Sabatini. Page 46

Football: Wales were trounced 5-0 by Georgia in Tbilisi, their second successive defeat in the European Championship qualifying competition. Page 48

Rugby league: Jonathan Davies will miss the final international against Australia. He has not yet recovered from a shoulder injury in the first match. Page 42

FEATURES

Lucky winner: Michael Ballour found a 1798 ticket — and set off through lottery history. Page 16

Rival reports: Controversy over high blood pressure. Page 17

Hot topic: Why mothers reject the most accurate way of recording their baby's temperature. Page 17

BOOKS

Nice work: John Patten on Simon Jenkins and Simon Hoggart, "the best of their breed". Page 38

National Trust: "A Frankenstein's monster of a body". Page 39

TRAVEL

World Travel Market: Albania, Uganda and Nigeria return from a tourist grave. Pages 22, 23

ARTS

Pantos galore: Today *The Times* lists more than 240 Christmas pantomimes and shows, from Inverness to Plymouth, and involving such stalwarts as Ian Botham, Wayne Sleep, Nicholas Parsons and Barbara Windsor. Page 37

Hurt in Wales: William Hurt sheds his usual Hollywood hellraiser image for the anorak of an emotionally suppressed Welsh village postmaster in *Second Best*. Page 35

Tall story: "I have not seen a harder, harsher, larger play in ages," says Benedict Nightingale of Albee's *Three Tall Women*. Page 35

Premiere: In Stockholm the Eighth Symphony by Alfred Schnittke, 60 this year, has received its world premiere. Page 35

THE PAPERS

With the Pacific agreement to move to free trade, the US has made important progress in a cause that it has vigorously supported for half a century — *The Washington Post*

With ratification of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade coming up... it will be up to the Republicans to save the Administration — *Wall Street Journal*

There is no compelling need to test the Thaad [American missile defence] now. The greater need is to secure deeper Russian reductions; that is a tricky enough task as it is without complicating it with new defensive systems — *New York Times*

FILMINGS

David Morrissey has the title role in a saga of gangster folk set in the north-east of England. *Finnley* (TV, 9pm). Page 47

OPINION

The Queen's speech

After 15 years in office, the Conservative revolution is more or less complete, at least according to the Prime Minister. Page 19

Eastern fist

The subjugation of occupied East Timor only serves Jakarta — and General Suharto — ill. Page 19

Look behind you!

To the indignation of the high-minded, Christmas pantomimes are the most enduring productions of theatrical life in Britain. Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Italy's political future depends upon the relationship between two men, who are both partners and rivals: Berlusconi and Fini. — Thackeray and Gaullist, entrepreneur and intellectual, self-made man and academic, extrovert and introvert, activist and philosopher. Both are convinced that Italy has to be remade, economically, politically and constitutionally. They are right. Page 18

JANET DALEY

In office, either party must struggle against the logic of the Eternal Beneficiary: people who receive regular payments from the state come to think of them as an inalienable right. Page 18

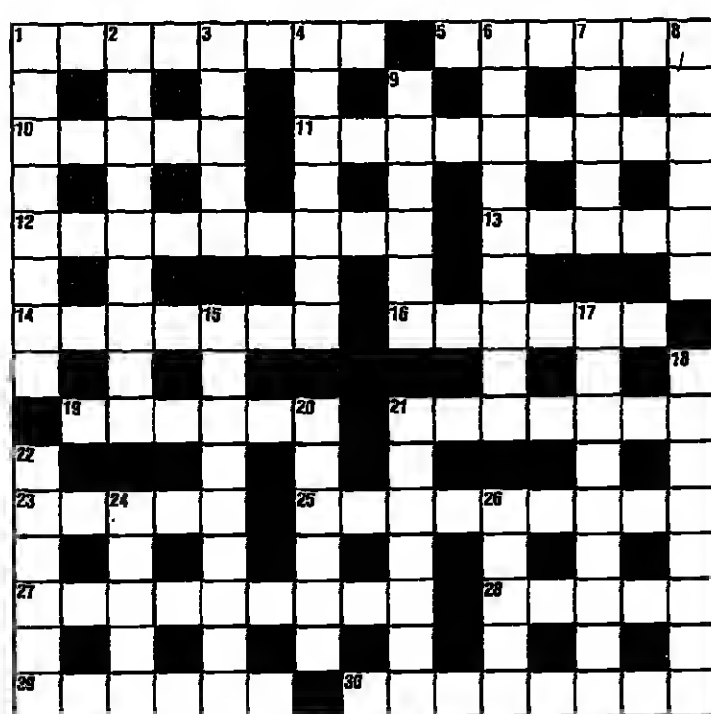
PETER RIDDELL

Whoever takes over from Sarah Hogg as head of the Downing Street Policy Unit early next year faces the big challenge of defining what, after the crusading years of Thatcherism, a Conservative Government is for? Page 18

Dr John Bishop Harman, former Consultant Physician at St Thomas' Hospital, Ernest Clark, English stage and screen actor, Janet Ahlberg, children's book illustrator, Oscar Mpetha, South African trade unionist and African National Congress official. Page 21

Where doctors' loyalties should lie: Wagner at the Royal Opera House sleep and dreams. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,702



- ACROSS**
- Prisoner's right to explain (8).
 - 16 expresses brought back by soldiers (6).
 - Source of viral disease not clear (5).
 - Jackson found nothing green in hedge (9).
 - Tourist attraction that's unusual and remote (5,4).
 - Sound of bang (5).
 - Slip back and replace fruit tree — the one missing (7).
 - Suspicion involving origin of narcotic — ecstasy (6).
 - Borne by a writer of verse about love (6).
 - I have to leave out first letter (7).
 - Where to ski in Kansas. Pennsylvania or Colorado? (5).
- DOWN**
- Conventional, old-fashioned drawers use it (3,6).
 - Carpet salesman given one thousand in foreign currency (9).
 - River detected by hearing and smell (5).
 - Faster, wilder attack (6).
 - Fashion centre with no cloth? (8).
 - Witches attempt to build a city (8).
 - Dive of bat after dark (5-4).
 - Subject other people to the ultimate in discomfort (5).
 - Diven anemion from revolting scene (7).
 - Boards the assembled boats here (3,6).
 - Bump starts on pedestrianised roads are never good (5).
 - Identify with bishop, not pawn (6).
 - Business man is convincing (6).
 - Suitors' straightforward words (9).
 - Canon with turbulent city quarter (9).
 - Practise on vehicle (8).
 - In time, any doctrine causes consternation (6).
 - Swordsmen hurt — soldiers proceed to intervene (7).
 - Old address up in the Hebrides (6).
 - Rup by daily (5).
 - Ring? Left without a ring (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,701

SANDMARTIN PALM
I O A N G O
EXACTITUDE ORAN
W H T O E M O A
P D E O N H C
RAINWATER ENCH
O S P U Y B I
SUPERFAMILIARITY
E O I O E A T
COSTORIVING
U S R E O O L
T H E M L A S T M I N U T E
O S N E N I S
R U S H O I S T R O G O I T H S

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset	704
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	705
Bedford, Herts & Essex	706
Northants, Suffolk, Cambs	707
West Mid & Sh. Sum & Gwent	708
Stroud, Hereford & Worcester	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincoln & Humberside	712
Derby & Leics	713
Gloucestershire & Cotswolds	714
W & S Yorks & Dales	715
N.E. England	716
Cumbria & Lake District	717
W. Scotland	718
W. Central Scotland	719
Edin & Fife/Lowland Borders	720
E. Central Scotland	721
Strathclyde & E. Highlands	722
N.W. Scotland	723
Cathartes, Orkney & Shetland	724
N. Ireland	725

Weathercall is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic forecasts, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Essex/Herts/Bucks/Beds/Oxon	733
West/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
South Coast	738
Wales	739
East Anglia	740
North-west England	741
North-east England	742
Scotland	743
North Ireland	744
AA Roadwatch is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.	

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Torquay, 15C (59F). Lowest day temp: Glasgow, 1C (34F). Highest night temp: Glasgow, 1C (34F). Lowest night temp: Glasgow, 1C (34F). Highest wind speed: Scarborough, 10 mph. Lowest wind speed: Glasgow, 1 mph.

FORECAST

General: sunshine and showers. England and Wales will be mostly dry with sunny spells. Western parts, including North Wales, will have rather more cloud with showers. More persistent rain will spread from the west later to all parts. Southeast England will have patchy light rain. Scotland will have sunny spells and showers, heaviest and most frequent in the north and west, probably wintery over the highest hills. Northern Ireland and southern parts of Scotland will become cloudy with more continuous rain later.

London, SE, Central S England, E Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Isles: dry with bright or sunny spells, becoming cloudier later. Wind southerly to westerly moderate. Max 12C (54F).

E. NE, Central N England, Borders: bright or sunny spells, becoming cloudy with rain later. Wind westerly moderate. Max 11C (52F).

W Midlands, SW England, S Wales: bright, becoming cloudy but mostly dry. Wind southwesterly fresh to strong. Max 12C (54F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Wind southwesterly moderate to fresh. Max 10C (50F).

Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: overnight ground frost then clear or sunny spells with showers, wintery over the hills. Wind westerly fresh. Max 9C (48F).

NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: clear or sunny spells, then cloudier with showers or longer spells of rain. Winds westerly fresh falling light and variable, later moderate southeasterly. Max 9C (48F).

Outlook: staying mild, mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

AROUND BRITAIN

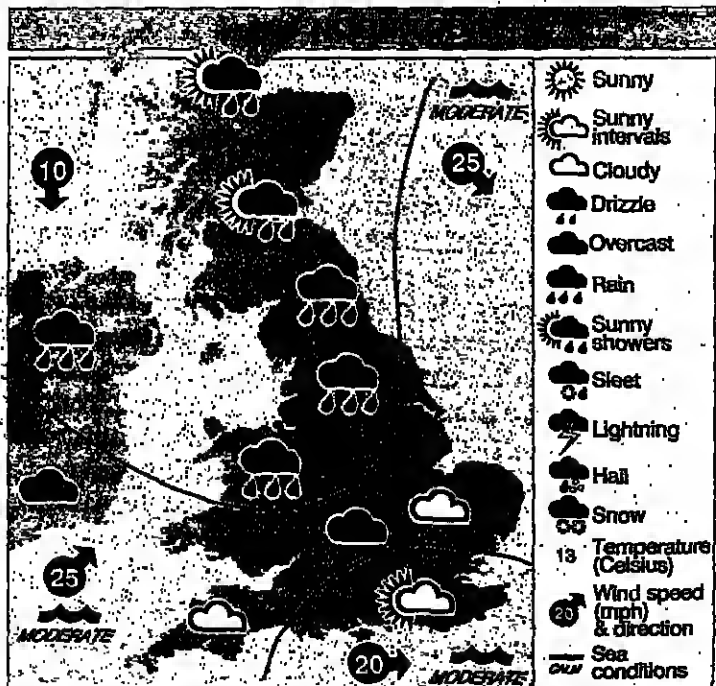
24 hrs to 5 pm: h=high; d=drizzle; ds=drizzle; lg=log; s=sun; st=st; sn=snow; l=low; c=cloud; m=rain; b=rain; du=drizzle; g=gale; sh=showers.

Location	Temp	Wind	Sea
Aberdeen	10	11	5
London	13	12	5
Manchester	10	11	5
Birmingham	10	11	5
Cardiff	10	11	5
Edinburgh	10	11	5
Glasgow	10	11	5
Liverpool	10	11	5
Newcastle	10	11	5
Nottingham	10	11	5
Sheffield	10	11	5
Sunderland	10	11	5
Swansea	10	11	5
Torquay	15	12	5
Wrexham	10	11	5

ABROAD

These are Tuesday's figures.

Location	Temp	Wind	Sea
Madrid	20	15	5
Paris	15	12	5
Rome	18	15	5
Stockholm	10	12	5
Warsaw	10	12	5
Yokohama	15	12	5
Tokyo	15	12	5
Sydney	20	15	5
Melbourne	15	12	5
Auckland	15	12	5



Changes to the chart below from noon. Low A will move southeast and fill. Complex low B will move slowly northeast and deepen.

	AM	HT	PM	HT	PM	HT	PM
London Bridge	12.51	6.9	1.08	6.8	1.08	6.8	1.08
Aberdeen	12.16	4.1	12.45	4.2	12.45	4.2	12.45
Manchester	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Birmingham	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Cardiff	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Edinburgh	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Glasgow	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Liverpool	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Newcastle	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Nottingham	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Sheffield	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Sunderland	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Swansea	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Torquay	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30
Wrexham	10.15	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30	3.2	10.30

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED 1994. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 6AN, telephone 01-252 5000. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. Thursday, November 17, 1994. Registered at the Post Office.

ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

ARTS 35-37

BOOKS 38, 39

NAVRATILOVA
—FAREWELL
FOR NOW
Sport 42-48

End of the
era of mass
unemployment

Maggie Smith is
peerless in Albee's
Three Tall Women

The best history
of Chairman Mao
and his times

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17 1994

Electricity watchdog pushes for new shake-up



By ROSS TREMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S regional electricity companies may be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless they separate their distribution and supply activities, Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, has told them.

Putting down a marker for the development of competition after 1998, Professor Littlechild said "merit in considering the greater separation of REC distribution networks from their other activities."

His warning raises the spectre of further fundamental reorganisation

of the privatised electricity regime in England and Wales.

At the same time, the regulator backed a full sale next spring of the £5 billion National Grid transmission system owned by the regional electricity companies. He also called for the Grid to sell separately its pumped storage business, which has two plants in Wales that enable the grid to meet sudden surges in demand. "The pumped storage business is capable of operating as an independent company," he said.

The proposals were met with deep scepticism in the electricity industry. A Grid spokesman said that the issue of selling subsidiary businesses, such

as pumped storage and Energis, the telephone arm, had yet to be addressed. One utility expert said that it would be "daft" to give another company control of capacity designed to balance demand on the transmission system.

The two facilities, Dinorwig, which can generate 1,500 MW, and Ffestiniog, at 360 MW, use cheap-rate electricity to pump water uphill, releasing it during peak demand to balance the system. Both can reach maximum power within seconds, and help to avoid power fluctuations.

Regional electricity companies were taken aback by Professor Littlechild's remarks, which come

only weeks after completion of an Offer review of their distribution businesses. "We need a bit more clarification about what Professor Littlechild really means," said a London Electricity spokesman.

In his speech, to a London conference, Professor Littlechild focused on the link between ownership of transmission facilities and competition. "The effective separation of transmission ownership at privatisation has made a major contribution to the development of competition," he said. "In contrast, ownership of the REC distribution networks was not separated."

He suggested that a variety of arrangements "might be explored".

adding: "Clearer separation between monopoly networks and potentially competitive activities is more conducive to effective competition and the full protection of customers."

The regulator told *The Times* that if RECs failed to respond to his concerns, he had power to refer the matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He is clearly thinking ahead to measures to ensure effective competition when regional supply companies lose their monopoly over domestic customers in 1998.

Separating distribution from supply would parallel moves in gas.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	3146.5 (+11.1)
Yield	4.07%
FT-SE All share	1580.20 (+5.30)
Nikkei	18309.66 (+65.02)
New York	
Dow Jones	3827.37 (+1.01)
S&P Composite	464.76 (+0.27)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	9.25% (9.25%)
Yield	8.07% (8.05%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6% (6.4%)
Life long gilt	102% (102%)

STERLING

New York	1.5725 (1.5720)
London	
S	1.5715 (1.5699)
DM	2.4375 (2.4479)
FF	8.3956 (8.4095)
Sfr	2.0513 (2.0567)
Yen	154.66 (155.85)
S index	79.7 (80.1)

US\$ DOLLAR

London	
DM	1.5910 (1.5558)
FF	5.3250 (5.3425)
Sfr	1.3025 (1.3089)
Yen	98.35 (98.75)
S index	82.4 (82.2)

TOKYO CLOSURE

Yen	154.66
-----	--------

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$16.40 (unc)
--------------------	---------------

GOLD

London close	\$386.25 (\$386.85)
--------------	---------------------

* denotes midday trading price

Overcharging

The Office of Fair Trading published a report which says the big City investing institutions overcharged for underwriting, or guaranteeing the success of rights issues by listed companies. A London Business School report concludes that the standard 14 per cent paid to institutions is an excessive return. Page 26. *Tempus* 28

High costs

Costs of a massive building programme will hit profits at Land Securities, Britain's largest property investment company. Page 31

Jobless total dips below 2.5m

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday proclaimed a sustained economic recovery as unemployment fell sharply, with long-term unemployment falling below 1 million for the first time in two years.

Ministers were delighted at what Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, described as a "very good" set of labour market figures, though Opposition and trade union leaders said the fall in unemployment had yet to translate into rising jobs.

Unadjusted headline unemployment fell by 125,344 to 2,455,044. This was the largest October fall for a generation, apart from October 1988, when young people were removed from the unemployment figures.

Seasonally adjusted to take account of a long, five-week month and the number of students coming off the unemployment register, the fall of 45,800, to 2,516,600, was the ninth successive monthly drop, and takes the total decline since unemployment peaked in December 1992 to 455,100.

The seasonally adjusted total, which represents a rate of 8.9 per cent, is now at its lowest level since October 1991, and is 15 percentage points lower than the peak. Unemployment fell for men and women, and in every region.

The fall was much sharper than market predictions of about 20,000. Whitehall statisticians accept that unemployment is on a firm downward trend but are still cautious about the likely reduction over the next few months. They say that is likely to be towards the upper end of a 20,000 to 25,000 range.

BT3 sale helps produce £558m surplus in October

THE Government had a budget surplus of £558 million last month, the first month of net repayment since January, fuelling City expectations that the Treasury's forecast of a 1994 deficit of £36 million will be revised down (Colin Narbrough writes).

The October surplus largely

reflected the £1.47 billion in proceeds from the final instalment in the BT3 share sale. It followed a £4.1 billion deficit in September and brought the public sector borrowing requirement for the first seven months of the financial year to £19.2 billion, against £26.4 billion last year.

Ministers were particularly pleased with the fall in long-term unemployment. The number of people out of work for more than a year fell by 47,800 to 956,500, the lowest level reported for two years and the first time it has been below the 1 million mark since October 1992. Those out of work for more than six months fell by 113,900 to just under 1.4 million.

Harriet Harman, Labour's shadow Employment Secretary, said: "People remain insecure at work and fearful about losing their jobs. That will not change until unemployment falls much further, and employment begins to rise."

New figures for manufacturing showed that employment fell by 4,000 in September, though the rate of decline is slowing and the figures across three months showed an increase of 2,000. The stock of vacancies at JobCentres — roughly about a third of all those available — rose to its highest level for more than four years.

The amount of overtime being worked rose sharply, to 9.8 million hours, its highest level since last July, prompting ministers to suggest that the recovery was being led by exports, while short-time working, at 150,000 hours, was at its lowest recorded level.

Earnings increases across the whole economy remained at 3.75 per cent for the fourth month running.

Productivity rose 6 per cent in manufacturing, while unit wage costs fell 1.4 per cent and are lower than those in Japan.

Economic View, page 29



Ross Buckland, of Unigate, is pressing for an MMC reference for Milk Marque

Unigate gives warning of hundreds of job losses

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

UNIGATE has given warning that higher costs after the establishment of Milk Marque as a successor to the Milk Marketing Board would hit profits this year and force it to cut hundreds of jobs.

Ross Buckland, Unigate's chairman, said the new regime had raised costs by £40 million a year and this would inevitably lead to rationalisation and job losses.

More than 50 employees have already gone after the closure of its Worthing Dairy and Mr Buckland said there would be hundreds more job losses among the 8,000 staff in its dairy-related businesses. The cost of the rationalisation programme has not yet been quantified but provisions will be paid this year.

Mr Buckland said the

group had failed to recoup all of the extra costs in higher prices to its customers. Trading profits will therefore be hit by about £10 million in the year to March 31, 1995. Mr Buckland said Milk Marque was abusing its position as the dominant milk supplier and the group, along with others in the dairy industry, would continue to press for a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Unigate has raised the price of a doorstep pint by 2p to 40p outside London and 41p in London since the new regime began on November 1. Prices in supermarkets have also risen but remain substantially lower than those on the doorstep. Unigate said doorstep deliveries are continuing to decline by 12 per cent but this

has been partly offset by rising sales to supermarkets. His remarks came as Unigate unveiled a 7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £53.7 million from £50.3 million in the six months to September 30. Earnings per share rose to 16.4p from 15.2p.

UK food operations profits rose 15 per cent to £33.4 million (£29.0 million). Profits were static in the dairy operations but edged up to £10.7 million (£10.6 million) in the Wincanton distribution business. The US restaurant businesses struggled, with profits falling to £6.1 million (£7.7 million).

The interim dividend rises to 6.3p (6.0p) and will be paid on January 6.

Tempus, page 28

Inflation figures help to dispel rate rise fears

By COLIN NARBROUGH

LOWER than expected inflation figures combined with remarks from the last monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to dispel fears of an imminent rise in interest rates.

The last retail prices index (RPI) to appear before the Budget on November 29 gave important confirmation that underlying inflation remains very subdued in spite of the buoyant economy and inflationary pressures

evident in commodity prices. The index rose 0.1 per cent last month to 145.2, after an 0.2 per cent rise in September, with higher housing costs, reflecting recent mortgage interest rate rises, providing the only significant upward pressure.

The annual headline rate for RPI rose to 2.4 per cent from 2.2 per cent, but the underlying rate, which excludes mortgage interest payments, held steady at 2 per cent, its lowest for 27 years.

The Federal Reserve's decision on Wednesday to raise the US discount

rate by 0.75 percentage points to 4.75 per cent had initially prompted market speculation that Britain might come under pressure to follow suit.

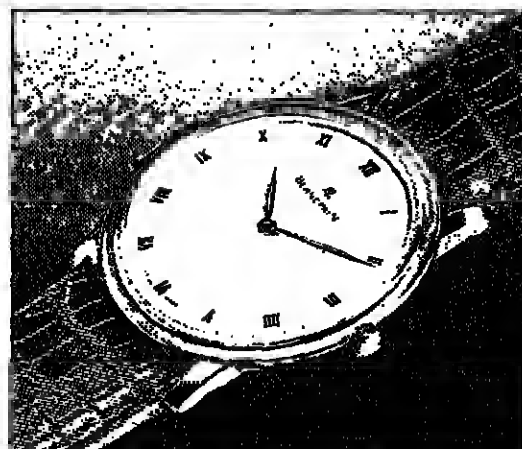
But an underlying inflation figure comfortably inside the Treasury's target range of 1-4 per cent was seen by City economists to make it unlikely that UK base rates would rise again this year.

Minutes from the September 26 meeting between Mr Clarke and Mr George revealed that they agreed to a "wait-and-see" stance on interest rates. The meeting took place two-and-a-half

weeks after the session at which they agreed to raise base rates by a half point to 5.75 per cent. Mr George said he believed the markets were exaggerating the degree of "future" inflationary pressures facing Britain and noted that the September rate rise had been well received in financial markets, with most concern coming from consumers.

Mr Clarke said that the recovery remained strong and there was little immediate prospect of inflationary pressure from the consumer sector. He agreed that interest rates should be left unchanged for the time being.

BLANCPAIN



SINCE 1735 THERE HAS
NEVER BEEN A QUARTZ BLANCPAIN WATCH.
AND THERE NEVER WILL BE.

For further information please contact:
Carley & Clemence, 23 Grosvenor Street
London W1X 9PE. Tel: 071 416 4160

OFT accuses institutions of overcharging

BY CARL MORTISHED

INSTITUTIONS reacted angrily last night to accusations that almost £500 million of fees charged by them for underwriting rights issues represented excessive returns.

Britain's largest investment institutions — including large pension funds and insurance companies — are said to have overcharged by 86 per cent to insure companies against the failure of a share issue.

The accusations came from the Office of Fair Trading, which has published a report commissioned by the London Business School that concludes that the standard sub-underwriting commission of 14 per cent paid to institutions is an excessive return.

Institutions were angry that the OFT yesterday appeared to ally itself with the report, written by Professor Paul Marsh.

The document compares the sub-underwriting to the purchase of a put option on the shares and concludes that

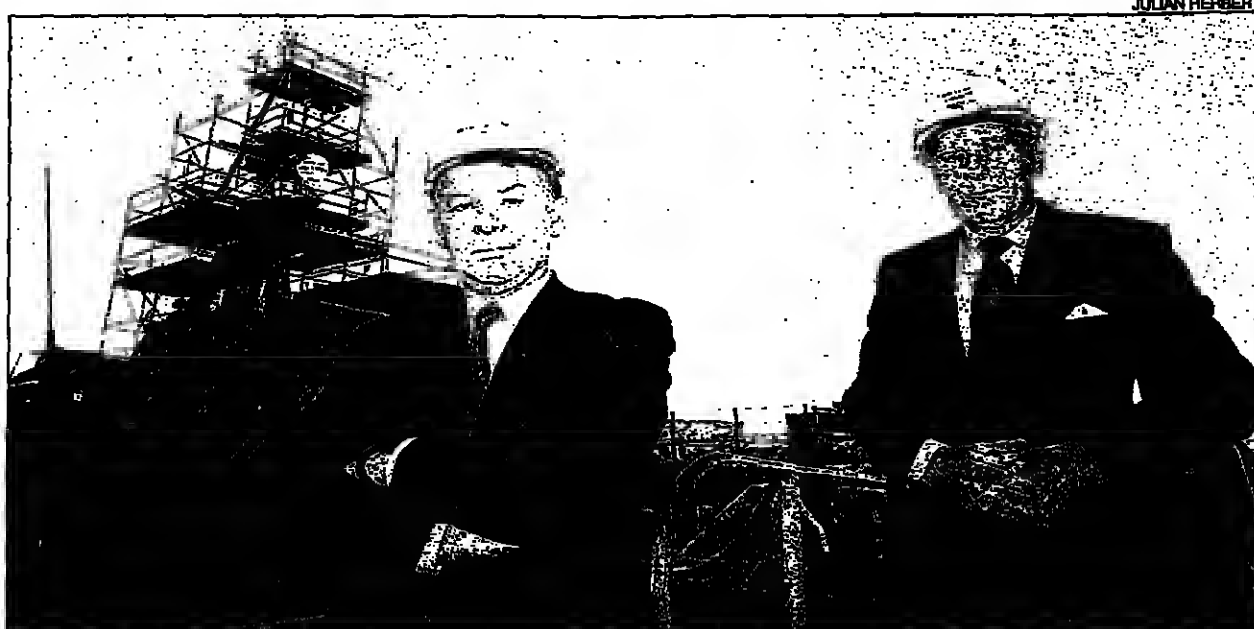
between 1986 and 1993 institutions had been overpaid by £480 million.

A spokesman for a leading insurance company said that the report failed to take account of the cost of capital for institutions and said that the UK rights issue system offered better value for money than the American bookbuilding method.

He added: "My view is that the fees are a bit on the low side. They offer better value than bookbuildings, which provide a turn on the shares for the investment banks involved."

Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general of the OFT, said that he was considering Professor Marsh's findings and would announce his own conclusions in the near future.

He said: "I commissioned this research because of the long-standing concerns of industrialists and others about underwriting fees and the generally fixed fee structure."



Martin Jay, managing director, left, and Peter Usher, chairman, in one of Vosper Thornycroft's workshops

Exports swell Vosper order book

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

STRONG export growth helped the order book at Vosper Thornycroft Holdings, Britain's leading builder and exporter of minehunters and small warships, to top £600 million, with 70 per cent of orders overseas.

The Southampton shipbuilding and engineering

group saw pre-tax profits advance 13 per cent to a better than expected £10.3 million in the six months to September 30. Turnover grew 12 per cent to £129 million, with 82 per cent coming from exports.

The group has 14 vessels under construction, including seven minehunters for the Royal Navy, with its workload extending to 2001. Vosper

could take on further work as it is working at only about 60 to 70 per cent of capacity. Peter Usher, chairman, said: "It was particularly satisfying that we won the competition for the Sandown class minehunters for the Royal Navy in July and that the MoD placed an order for seven ships."

Chris Girling, finance director, said cash balances grew to

£134 million. However, apart from some £60 million, much of this is in advances for orders. The group is considering potential acquisitions.

The interim dividend is raised to 6.1p (5.3p), from earnings ahead 10 per cent to 21.6p (19.6p) a share.

Tempus, page 28
Business letter, page 29

Sturge names plan new year lawsuit

THE Sturge Names Action Group intends to launch legal proceedings in January to try to recover losses of more than £100 million incurred on the Sturge agency flagship syndicate 210. The action group is asking the 5,700 names on syndicate 210 to contribute to a litigation fund. Writs will then be served in the new year. Syndicate 210 was the largest non-marine syndicate at Lloyd's and was managed by Sturge, the largest Lloyd's agency. Its losses relate to asbestosis and pollution claims in America.

The action is the first of several planned by the group. It is considering taking action in relation to ten other Sturge syndicates. Together, the 11 syndicates lost £747 million in 1990 and 1991, a sum expected to top £1 billion as further claims feed through. The first action relates to syndicate 210's 1990 year of account. The action group alleges that the Sturge managing agency was negligent in terminating a reinsurance contract that provided unlimited cover.

MAM ends 'soft' deals

MERCURY Asset Management will stop accepting "soft commissions" at the start of next year as part of moves towards openness, but the broking arm of SG Warburg, its parent company, will continue to pay them. Colin Clark, director of pension fund business at MAM, said that soft commissions, where a fund manager accepts free goods or services from a broker, are a small part of the business. With soft commissions, a fund manager agrees to channel an agreed level of business through the broker, effectively paying commission from the client's pocket.

BA shelves Air Russia

BRITISH Airways said yesterday that it has indefinitely suspended plans to set up Air Russia, a new international airline it had hoped to establish at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport. BA said: "It has not been killed off completely but it has been put into cold storage until the political and economic situation in Russia stabilises and becomes more conducive towards such a project." BA said that Geoff Bridges, a former BA cargo managing director who was appointed to head Air Russia in 1993 is no longer involved in the project.

UK deals in India

BRITISH companies yesterday signed multimillion-pound deals in India. Richard Needham, the Trade Minister, is leading a week-long trade mission, accompanied by 200 business leaders, which ends tomorrow. Companies awarded contracts yesterday included Taylor Woodrow, regarding a road project west of Delhi; Costain, which is to build a river crossing near Bombay; Caparo Group, which has signed a deal with Maruti, the carmaker, and the University of Warwick, which is to train staff.

Estate agent curbed

SIR Bryan Carsberg, right, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, has accepted assurances from Connell Residential, a chain of estate agents in southern England, and from the manager of the company's Cambridge branch, that they will stop erecting "Sold" boards outside properties where no sale has taken place. The assurances followed an initial investigation from Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Department.



PolyGram buys into rap

POLYGRAM, the Dutch recording group, is to pay \$33 million for 50 per cent of RAL/Def Jam Recordings, a leading rap music record label. PolyGram has, since June, been Def Jam's US distributor and licensee outside America. Island Records will continue to run US marketing. PolyGram said Def Jam, founded in 1983 in New York, has L.L. Cool J and the Beastie Boys on its list. Russell Simmons, Def Jam's founder, will be chairman and chief executive of the label. It will remain "creatively autonomous", he said.

EU industrial output rises

INDUSTRIAL production in the European Union rose by 6.5 per cent in August compared with the same month last year, making the seventh consecutive monthly rise. Eurostat, the union's statistics organisation reported yesterday.

Seasonally adjusted production for the three months to August was 2 per cent up on the March to May quarter.

Seasonally adjusted change for the August quarter was up most strongly in Italy, which showed a 5.4 per cent increase, followed by Greece, up 3.1 per cent, and Spain, up 2.7 per cent.

	Bank	Bank
	Buyer	Seller
Australia \$	2.21	2.04
Austria Sch	13.21	12.71
Belgium Fr	33.47	49.07
Canada \$	2.57	2.00
Cyprus Cyp£	0.70	0.70
Denmark Kr	10.17	9.57
Finland Mk	8.05	8.05
France Fr	8.09	8.19
Germany Dm	2.80	2.80
Greece Dr	388.00	375.00
Hong Kong \$	12.81	11.81
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.98
Italy Lit	2000.00	2400.00
Japan Yen	100.00	100.00
Netherlands Gld	0.618	0.608
Norway Kr	2.58	2.05
Portugal Esc	11.30	10.50
S Africa Rd	260.50	242.00
Sweden Kr	1.00	1.00
Spain Ptas	210.50	190.50
Switzerland Fr	12.22	11.42
Turkey Lira	2.19	2.07
USA \$	1.572	1.562

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

If a free transfer
isn't enough to tempt
you to Yorkshire Bank,
how about 1% off
our base rate?

No arrangement fees to transfer business borrowing of up to £10 million from your existing lender. Cash back to cover security documentation fees. Three months free banking if you remain in credit. Three good reasons to transfer your business to Yorkshire Bank. And if that's not enough, our Business Investment Loan cuts 1% off our base rate for new capital investments up to £2 million, whether you're a new or existing customer. If you want to transfer your account and expand your business, phone 0800 221 221 now for a full information pack. Don't resist the temptation.

Yorkshire Bank. For Business.

LET'S TALK PRINTERS...



OKI
People to People Technology

44 THE OKI OL4000's
LED TECHNOLOGY
MEANS LESS MOVING
PARTS SO LESS
SERVICE COSTS. 77

THE EXTRAORDINARY OKI OL4000 FROM AROUND £259 (incl. VAT), CALL

0345 414 400

□ Electricity reform plans offer little □ Gas industry on best behaviour □ Dirty deal for the taxpayer

Academic power play

□ CAN it be long before households will buy their gas from the local electricity company and their electricity from the gas company? The first will soon become a realistic option. If Professor Stephen Littlechild has his way, the full reversal of roles may become a paradoxical reality for the new millennium.

The power regulator, criticised for the burgeoning cash surpluses of regional electricity companies, is minded to embrace the fashionable drive to atomise the functions of utility companies. This philosophy of deconstruction, pioneered in the practical man's world of literary criticism, has already been adopted for the future framework of Britain's railways. It is being injected gradually into telecommunications and gas. It informed the privatisation of the former Central Electricity Generating Board via a less-than-heroic compromise. Now Professor Littlechild wants to extend its infectious logic to supply and distribution.

No problem there for the capital markets. The margins to be earned from trading electricity between generator and consumer are extremely thin. As middlemen for industrial customers, RECs add little value for any risk they choose to take. Their retail businesses are, for City investors, mere embarrass-

ments. In accounting terms, the real profits are made from delivering electricity across their distribution networks, which will remain regulated monopolies.

By the same calculus, however, separating supply from distribution is an irrelevance for most consumers. Separating supply from power generation is what creates the healthy commercial tension. The price of electricity to households is largely determined by the costs of generation, distribution, National Grid charges, the various taxes and levies added by government — and by the decisions of the regulator.

Some savings can be made by not duplicating meter-reading or billing. There are unlikely to be any consistent benefits from the supply competition that will, in any case, increasingly become available to business users. Smart consumers could only save if smart meters allowed them to plug into pool prices and adjust hour-by-hour consumption accordingly.

Outside the increasingly academic world of utility regulation, the big money issue is more

basic: who will get the windfall from floating the National Grid. In law, it belongs to the RECs that own it. But who cares about the rights of property? Claimants are lining up on all sides. The Chancellor will get first crack. The RECs have virtually conceded that some must go to their customers. Professor Littlechild thinks they have a strong claim for much more than the RECs have in mind. Perhaps he has a guilty conscience. Some critics claim that, because of the way he has valued the assets of the National Grid, consumers have paid twice, or have at least paid too much, for its services.

All sweetness and gaslight

□ IT IS, at last, official, courtesy of the Queen's Speech. Legislation to end British Gas's domestic monopoly is on the way. Official reactions were much as might be expected. A spokesman for Utilicorp, a traditionally vocal independent, declared that the company was "delighted" and stressed that consumers



should welcome the even "because it will mean more choice and lower bills". Why, one wonders, did the Government ever procrastinate?

Richard Giordano, chairman of British Gas, reiterated the company's new-found enthusiasm (about as new as his appointment) for such competition but also reiterated the need for "appropriate safeguards". His chief executive, Cedric Brown, got down to the nitty-gritty. "It is essential that all entrants share the obligations as well as the rewards". Almost as an afterthought, he added that it was also "important to establish a stable regulatory framework to end the uncertainty that has affected the gas industry".

Hardly a devastating attack on Clare Spottiswoode.

The Consumers Association "welcomed" developments but called for "strict regulation". Polite, best behaviour stuff but not necessarily a reflection of the mood backstage. There have, of late, been significant changes to the transitional arrangements. Initially, it was proposed that the independents would take 5 per cent of the domestic gas market during 1996-97 and a further 5 per cent during 1997-98. Unfortunately, no one knew how such limits would be enforced. This gave way to a pilot scheme under which 500,000 consumers will be offered supplier choice, rising to 2 million the following year. But, in all probability, a General Election will intervene. Politicians will obviously dress the experiment up if successful, but what if aspects — such as computer systems — go wrong?

The independents, by all accounts, are far from pleased. Perish the thought that such displeasure might relate to delayed cherry-picking opportunities. Rumour has it that the blunt message from West-

minster was that if the independents wanted legislation they would be well advised to shut up. Or at least be polite.

Cleaning up from atomic energy

□ AMERICA's space programme spawned the Teflon saucepan and a great many bad jokes. Britain's atomic research programme has produced AEA Technology and a clean-up liability officially estimated to be between £6 billion and £12 billion.

As a unitary government authority, the Atomic Energy Authority earned an operating profit of £22.1 million in the year to end-March on total turnover of £405 million. Of this, £66.5 million of sales were achieved overseas, and £63.5 million were made to private industry in Britain. A further £100 million was spent cleaning up the mess the authority has made.

With sales of spin-off technology both at home and overseas growing by almost 30 per cent a year, some bright spark with an

eye for the main chance spotted a serious personal opportunity to enhance personal wealth. Stripped of the liability for all those dirty old labs and redundant reactors, AEA Technology could turn into a private sector money-spinner, with annual sales approaching £250 million.

So the assets and liabilities were duly sundered and Sir Anthony Cleaver, the amiable former chairman of IBM UK, was hired to turn AEA Technology into a saleable business. All that remains is for Parliament to pass an enabling Bill. Then, managers can give themselves fat pay rises and disperse to shareholders the pathetic dividends of decades of costly, if ill-directed, public investment.

Oh, and taxpayers can keep on shelling out, this time to pay for the clean-up. Brilliant.

Notes in circulation

□ IN THE Ukraine, cellulose is in such short supply that tons of old banknotes are being recycled to make toilet paper in varied hues recalling the original notes. Back home, the Bank of England stopped burning ex-currency on environmental grounds, but has yet to find an economic use for the briquettes extruded from its new granulating machines. The symbolic Ukrainian solution seems grimly satisfying.



Richard Eyre, Capital's managing director, saw the group's profit nearly double on turnover up 44 per cent

Pension worries hit Towry Law

By MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

SHARES in Towry Law, the chain of independent financial advisers, fell sharply from 130p to 86p after the company disclosed that it has 500 pension transfers under review after the Securities and Investment Board report into mis-selling of pensions.

The company, whose shares were floated on the stock market at 190p just a year ago, also said that income in the current year was down by 10 per cent and that there would be a pre-tax loss of £1.25 million at the interim stage.

This compares with profits of £565,000 last time. The interim dividend will be maintained, the company said.

Alan Wesley, chief executive, said that it was too early to judge whether individual clients were entitled to compensation, but it was "inevitable that some problem cases

would emerge". The number of pensions under review was significantly lower than originally expected and the company was confident about its general standard of advice on pension transfers, said Mr Wesley.

He acknowledged that the financial results would be disappointing, but said that Towry Law's performance mirrored that of other companies in the sector, affected by a lacklustre stock market, adverse publicity about pensions and public concern about economic recovery.

Mr Wesley welcomed higher standards of compliance and said that Towry Law would "thrive in a leaner, cleaner environment". By contrast, there were a large number of small, independent financial advisers who, "I fear, will go to the wall", he said.

Hambros hit by securities loss

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HAMBROS, the City merchant bank, said its securities clearing subsidiary traded at a loss in the half year to the end of September, contributing to a 45.6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £21.5 million.

Hambros had warned last month that profits would be lower.

The bank's interim dividend has been held at 4.5p on its ordinary shares, to be paid on December 23, and 2.1p on its non-voting shares. The dividend was just covered by earnings of 4.8p a share, down from 11.7p.

Despite the profits fall Hambros said that, with the exception of the securities clearing subsidiary, all other UK and overseas divisions made a positive contribution.

The profits figure was at the higher end of the £18 million to £23 million range given at

the beginning of last month when the group said first-half profits would be damaged by bond market instability.

Sir Chips Keswick, the deputy chairman, said: "On balance, most of our activities were marginally down and our costs were marginally up." Administrative expenses increased from £145.7 million to £168.4 million.

Lord Hambro, the chairman, said: "Despite the difficulties in some markets, we remain very active in most fields of banking, while any upturn in the housing market will have a greater impact on overall group profitability now we have expanded Hambro Countrywide's network."

Hambro Countrywide is the estate agency business. It moved from a profit of £1.3 million in the first half of 1993 to a loss of £750,000.

Cost-cutting and cold weather lift British Gas

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Gas achieved a sharp increase in profit during the first nine months of the year as cost-cutting, cold weather and reduced exploration spending amply outweighed the effects of tougher regulation.

Pre-tax profits in the period to September 30 rose by 32.6 per cent, to £748 million, even though turnover, at £7.05 billion, fell by £28 million.

The biggest improvement came during the latest quarter. In spite of a blazing June, losses in the summer months, when demand is slackest, were reduced to £225 million, a £108 million improvement on the same months of 1993.

In a statement accompanying the figures, the company credited its exploration and production division with most of the loss reduction. However, the decline in outgoings was partly caused by a slow-down in activity. Spending on the North Morecambe dev-

elopment is now largely complete, and the sale of Bow Valley Energy, the Canadian gas business, is complete.

Exploration and production turnover decreased in the third quarter by £14 million, to £165 million, reflecting the Bow Valley sale. Operating profits from exploration and production were said by British Gas to have improved because of lower levels of exploration activity, royalties and other operating costs.

Over the first nine months, exploration and production turnover fell by £29 million, to £742 million, because of lower gas production from the Morecambe field. Operating costs were £26 million lower because of reduced levels of exploration, resulting in operating profits similar to last year.

Some 7,000 of the company's 70,000 workers left during the first nine months, said Richard Giordano, the chairman. The benefits would be

felt in future years, he said. The job losses are the first of 25,000 planned in a five-year programme of restructuring as British Gas prepares for the world's first competitive gas market. Mr Giordano said that the restructuring was continuing ahead of schedule.

The programme will be given fresh impetus after the Queen's Speech to Parliament yesterday confirmed government plans for legislation to prepare the legal framework for full competition.

British Gas is already working to separate its gas transmission arm, the core of its UK activities, into a service company delivering gas from up to 30 suppliers to factories, offices and homes around the country. One of those suppliers will be Business Gas, owned by British Gas, but operating independently.

Queen's Speech, page 10
Pennington, this page

Record profit at Capital

By PHILIP PANGALOS

RICHARD Eyre, managing director of Capital Radio, is confident about prospects despite increased competition for advertising revenue.

Capital earned record pre-tax profits of £22.1 million in the year to September 30, up from £11.7 million in the previous year and including a £4.23 million exceptional gain from the disposal to GWR of its East Midlands radio stations. Earnings rose to 22.8p (11.3p) a share. The total dividend rises 26 per cent to 7.25p, with a final of 5p (4p).

Capital's principal operations are the two leading London radio stations, Capital FM and Capital Gold. It also operates two local radio stations in Birmingham and has minority interests in other local radio groups.

Turnover, boosted by the £32.6 million takeover of Southern Radio and a sharp increase in Capital's core businesses, expanded 44 per cent to £51.7 million. Existing businesses grew 30 per cent.

In a year when commercial radio attracted more listeners than the BBC for the first time, Capital achieved a 20 per cent share of the London audience by listening hours.

Further remand for Nadir aide

By JON ASHWORTH

ELIZABETH Forsyth, a former top aide to Asil Nadir, the fugitive businessman, was remanded on bail for another six weeks yesterday at the request of investigators seeking a vital piece of evidence from authorities in Switzerland.

Mrs Forsyth, who faces two charges of handling £88,050 and £307,000 in stolen funds, was remanded until December 29 by Bow Street Magistrates. Bail was extended on condition that she lodged £20,000 in sureties, surrendered her travel documents, and continued to live with her mother in Essex.

Mrs Forsyth, 58, a former chairman of South Audley Management, returned voluntarily to Britain from Cyprus



Forsyth: two charges

Krivinskas, despite opposition by the Serious Fraud Office.

He told the court: "Mrs Forsyth came back to this country. She considers she has nothing to be concerned about. She is quite happy for an order to be given at this stage for the lifting of reporting restrictions."

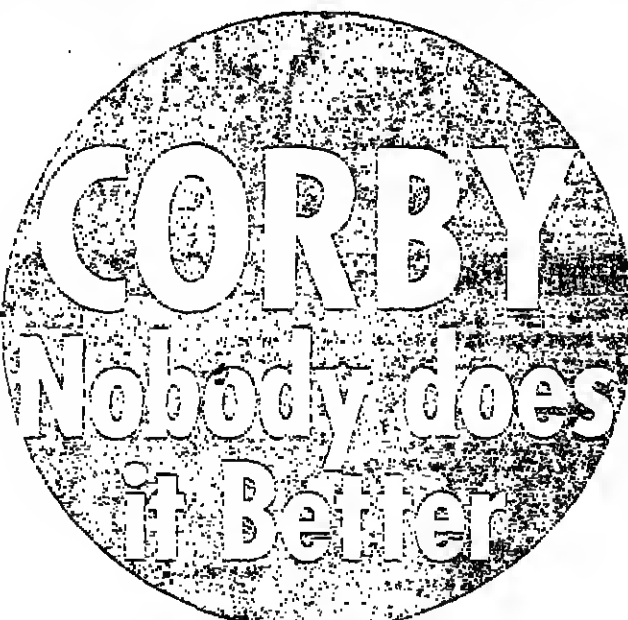
Peter Kiernan, a solicitor with the SFO, argued that the lifting of restrictions could prejudice the outstanding trial "of someone who is not in this jurisdiction" — an apparent reference to Mr Nadir. John Holland, the presiding magistrate, said he did not have the discretion to oppose the lifting of restrictions.

The court heard that the SFO is still trying to obtain a vital piece of evidence from Switzerland. It was hoped that the evidence would be ob-

tained within the next six weeks, allowing Mrs Forsyth's case to be transferred to Crown Court for hearing.

Mr Kiernan said: "We have made efforts to speak to the Swiss authorities who have outstanding evidence we require before we can proceed to transfer. They have indicated they hope it will be available before Christmas, but... we can't guarantee that."

Mr Nadir, who jumped bail of £3.5 million last year and fled to northern Cyprus, faces charges of theft and false accounting involving £30 million. He has been implicated in the shooting of a Coopers & Lybrand employee in Istanbul, and is said to be coming under increasing financial pressure. He remains isolated in a fortified villa protected by a 30-50 strong private army.



BETTER COMPANY

800 firms in ten years. Two-thirds in manufacturing. Highest proportion in UK of overseas companies. Over £1,000m private investment. Best of business company with Westabix, Oxford University Press, Avon Cosmetics, Golden Wonder, British Steel...

BETTER LOCATION

At the live centre of England. The choice of top distributors. Thirty million people in two hours road radius. Heathrow, Birmingham, Stansted in easy reach. InterCity A1-M1 link, only strategic East-West link south of the M62, is Corby's fast track to North-South road arteries, M6, East coast Euroports.

BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

Serviced greenfield sites aplenty. Ready for development. For sale. For manufacture. For business. For services. For leisure. A million square feet of ready-to-wear premises. Brand new business parks. Four-star conference facilities. Backed by 14 years' success in helping business to relocate, set-up, prosper, expand.

BETTER LIVING

A new town of modern business, social and leisure amenities. Yet with all the traditional values of a mature hardworking community. Only a stone's throw from breathtaking English countryside. From warm brownstone villages. From comfortable pubs and hotels. From fine country houses and stately homes. Only an hour from London.

To find out why CORBY WORKS send the coupon off today

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
P/Code _____
Tel _____

To: John Hill, Director of Industry,
Corby Industrial Development Centre,
Grosvenor House, George Street, Corby, Northants NN17 1TZ.
Tel: 0536 262571 Fax: 0536 401374.

CORBY
Nobody does it Better

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Inflation figures help to keep shares buoyant

BONDS and share prices rose sharply in response to some good news on the inflation front, as fears that the Bank of England would follow the lead of the Federal Reserve and raise interest rates subsided for the time being, at least.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index was almost 33 points higher before coming off the boil after an uncertain start to trading on Wall Street.

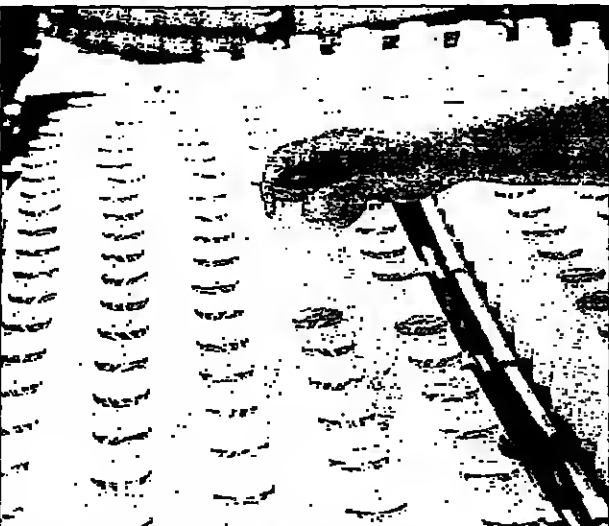
The day's 11.1 points up at 3,146.5, for a two-day lead of 51.2. Turnover fell short of Tuesday's target, but at 659 million, was still up on recently depressed levels.

The inflation figures and the drop in the number of jobless were just the tonic the London stock market needed in the wake of this week's 4-point rise in US interest rates. Re-assurances by the Chancellor that he was not inclined to follow the lead of the Fed also bolstered fragile investor confidence.

Brokers say that if the dollar can hold on to some of its recent gains, there is further scope for improvement in the equity market.

There was plenty of demand for the leaders, with Incheape adding 1p at 442p in belated response to a buy recommendation from NatWest Securities, the broker. Hanson marked time at 232p, in spite of a push by Hoare Govett, its own broker, which pointed out that the shares had underperformed by 10 per cent. Vendome failed to join in the rest of the market's euphoria, finishing all-square at 513p after James Capel, the broker, became cautious of the shares.

Grand Metropolitan touched 430p before ending the session 4p higher at 417p as speculation intensified that the group is about to bail out of Intrepreneur, its joint venture with Courage, owned by the Australian brewer Foster's. The two companies got together at the height of the property boom in the 1980s in order to exploit the value of its 6,000-strong pub chain. But the property market collapsed as did beer consumption. The company has also been fighting a fierce battle through the courts with rebel pub landlords who have refused to sign new contracts. After hefty writedowns by both companies of their investments, brokers believe Grand Met has decided enough is enough. In its annual report, GrandMet said it would find a



Unigate delivered a warning about the effect of higher costs

solution to Intrepreneur by the year-end.

British Gas firmed 1p to 305p, with reduced losses for the traditionally weaker third quarter. Net losses were £164 million (£225 million). Some estimates had suggested a deficit of up to £264 million. The colder weather and lower interest charges benefited the group to the tune of £140

million. A total of 7,000 jobs had been shed.

Unigate firmed 2p to 357p, in spite of offering a gloomy scenario on trading prospects after the introduction of Milk Marquee, which replaced the Milk Marketing Board. Unigate said high prices were likely to wipe £10 million from trading profits in the current year. Costs were expected to soar by £40 million, and the

group warned of rationalisation and further job losses. During the first six months, the group raised pre-tax profits £3.4 million to £50.3 million, mainly the result of increased productivity and cost cutting. The company refused to comment on recent speculation that it is poised to bid for rival Dairy Crest.

British Land clung on to an

proved sentiment did, however, benefit some of the other publicly quoted financial houses. SG Warburg, which issued a profits warning last month, continued to rally, adding 23p at 670p. There were also gains for Kleinwort Benson, 9p to 484p, and National, 8p to 486p. Henderson Administrative, 33p to £10.33, M&G Group, 28p to £10.23, Mercury Asset Management, the quoted arm of Warburg, 22p to 655p, and Smith New Court, 5p to 364p.

A profits warning left Towry Law, the pension funds specialist, 46p lower at 86p. The group said income levels were down 10 per cent in the first four months of this year, and a loss of £1.25 million was expected in the first six months.

Keep an eye on WMGO, the fast-growing corporate marketing specialist, headed by Bob Morton and Ian Perry. Yesterday, the group weighed in with a 26 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £254,000. Beeson Gregory, the company's own broker, has pencilled in £2.2 million for the full year, compared with £1.2 million last time, although some followers of the company claim this could be on the conservative side.

GILTED-EDGED: Gilts recovered from a hesitant start, helped by the better than expected UK inflation news and the latest US consumer price index. Prices were driven sharply higher with the Bank of England exhausting remaining supplies of the last outstanding 24 Treasury index-linked 2½ per cent 2024.

Prices, however, failed to hold their best, ending with modest gains on the day. In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt touched £102 3/4 before settling just three ticks higher at £102 1/2 as a total of 109,000 contracts were completed. At the longer end of the cash market, benchmark Treasury 9 per cent 2012 firmed £4 to £10 1/4, while in shorts, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was three ticks better at £10 1/4.

NEW YORK: Shares were mixed at midday, with strength in Boeing helping to push blue chips higher in defiance of a weak bond market and negative market breadth. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 1.01 points at 3,527.37, while declines led advancing issues by about 11 to nine.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3527.37 (+1.01)
S&P Composite 454.76 (+0.27)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19306.56 (+85.02)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9972.24 (+26.58)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 412.10 (+1.11)

Sydney:
AO 1942.33 (+1.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 1942.33 (+1.1)

Singapore:
Straits 2346.30 (+5.32)

Brussels:
General 7207.28 (+1.39)

Paris:
CAC-40 1990.20 (+4.39)

Zurich:
SIX 661.80 (+2.65)

London:
FT 30 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 10000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 50000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 250000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000000000000000000000000000000000000000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 25000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 1000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 2500 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 5000 3146.5 (+11.1)
FT 100

s of risk

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Hill Samuel goes local

IN the days before merchant bank Hill Samuel pulled up sticks and quit South Africa in 1986, it was in the habit of sending out from "home" very public Englishmen to head its South African operations — Freddie Lishman, Christopher Castleman, Tony Blair (no relation), to name but three. Now, in going back into the "new" South Africa by opening a representative office in Johannesburg, Hill Samuel has gone local. Its 1994 managing director is Werner Stals, 33. Stals says the re-emerged HS will transact much of the same lines of corporate business as before, including project financing, treasury, money market, and interest rate operations. The bank's new man could hardly be better connected. Daddy is Chris Stals — Governor of the South African Reserve Bank.

Taking cover

LEGAL & General's umbrella certainly has it uses. During a presentation to advisers in a glass-roofed auditorium at a hotel at Heathrow, during which management was espousing the virtues of L&G's new investment trust, a (banned) mobile phone rang in the audience. The signal set off the hotel's fire alarm. The glass roof was triggered open. It was raining cats and dogs. And L&G's team was in danger of being soaked. So it was up with those house umbrellas.



Open again

BRITISH finance specialists who enjoy visiting their colleagues on Wall Street should know that the much-loved Vista hotel is open again after a 20-month refurbishment. Unlike most hotels, which have only to re-wallpaper the lobby to claim they've renovated, the Vista re-vamp team faced a genuine obstacle — much of the hotel was destroyed in the bombing of the World Trade Centre. Or, as management put it at the time, "the crazy, towel-head bastards have blown the god-dam place up". It has cost \$60 million to put the 820-room hotel, spread over 18 floors, back together again.

Note of concern

HOW many times has your bank apologised and admitted embarrassment? JP Morgan, one of the great banking names, has just mailed clients the first issue of its new monthly publication, aptly titled *RiskMetrics Monitor*. However, managing director Till M. Guldemann has had to rush for the next post with a letter saying there was an error during mailing and that some clients in Europe have received both a letter from him and a copy of a memorandum intended for distribution to Morgan officers. The memo and letter contained substantially the same information, but "we are embarrassed by this breakdown in the normally smooth function of our distribution system," he adds. Alice... pass the shredder.

COLIN CAMPBELL

The end is nigh for the age of mass unemployment

ECONOMIC VIEW



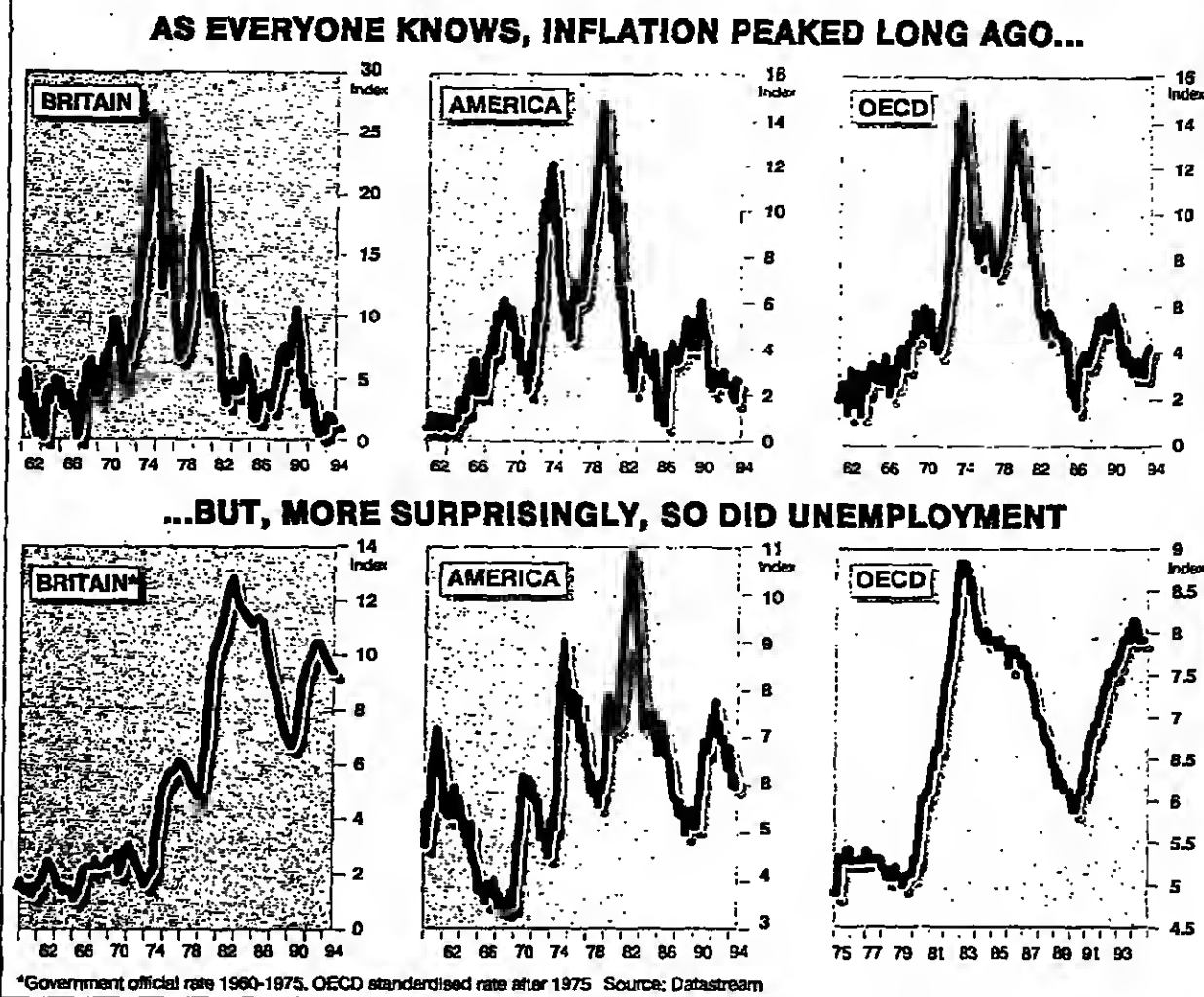
ANATOLE KALETSKY

As governments realise the battle of inflation is won, they will turn their focus on to growth

Inflation really is dead. Early last year, many people doubted this, when I wrote two articles in this column giving the reasons why the high inflation of the 1970s and early 1980s was a one-off historical aberration which would not be seen again in Britain or any other major industrialised country for another generation. By now, though, the view that inflation has been defeated is almost universally accepted, at least outside the American and European bond markets. After yesterday's excellent inflation figures in Britain and Tuesday's well-judged decision to tighten monetary policy a little further to control the American boom, the remaining inflation sceptics in both countries must be feeling thoroughly perplexed. Anyone who is still unconvinced that the world is experiencing lasting disinflation, despite both the facts and the manifest prospects, might do well to read the report on "The End of the Inflationary Era" from HSBC Markets, discussed on this page yesterday by Anthony Harris.

For my part, I would like to switch to an even more contentious and important issue. Is it possible that we will soon see the end not only of the inflationary era, but also of the era of mass unemployment?

To the present conventional wisdom even to ask such a question is to betray utter ignorance. From their own experience, businessmen and politicians know that mass unemployment is here to stay. To suggest that the world will ever again see full employment is a simply quibbling notion. I use the adjective advisedly, having just returned from a weekend in Seville to attend a fascinating conference, the British-Spanish *Tertulias*, which brought together some 30 politicians, civil servants, businessmen and media personalities from each country. Spain at the moment suffers the unhappy distinction of having by far the highest unemployment in Europe, with no less than 23 per cent of its labour force officially registered as unemployed. Needless to say, the prospects of jobless recovery and never-ending unemployment figured prominently in the conference discussions. What surprised me, however, was how little attention was devoted to Spain's uniquely dismal jobs record and its specific causes, which have been widely identified — above all, the introduction of very generous and loosely-administered unemployment benefits in the mid-1980s, which completely removed the incentive to work (officially, at least) in a large number of low-paid jobs. In fact, the alarm about



long-term unemployment and the creation of a permanently alienated, anti-social underclass seemed, if anything, to be greater among the British than the Spanish delegation. To a certain extent this doubtless reflected the fact that Spain's unemployment rate is greatly exaggerated, as it is in Italy, France and many other European countries, greatly exaggerated by the presence of a large black economy.

But there seemed to be another, more important reason for the greater alarm in Britain about the long-term prospects for unemployment. In Spain, as in much of the rest of Europe, the deregulatory measures that are now widely recognised as necessary to reduce unemployment are only just beginning to be attempted. Plenty of scope thus exists for the advocates of flexible labour markets to expect improvements in the years ahead. And to the extent that unemployment remains well above the level in America and other deregulated countries, it is possible to argue that this is a consequence of deliberate social choices — a price worth paying for a more generous welfare safety net, better social solidarity and lower levels of crime. In Britain, by contrast, there is a sense even among Conservative businessmen and politicians, that deregulation and labour market flexibility have gone about as far as could be expected. If unemployment persists, it must therefore be due to irreducible structural causes — rapidly changing technology, or poor training or the irresistible pressure for ever-lower wages created by trade with the Third World. Such structural explanations of permanent and ineradicable unemployment are now widely accepted. Yet, in

my view, they are likely to prove wrong. There are many reasons for optimism which I hope to discuss in more detail in this column in the months ahead. For the moment, let me summarise just two. First, there is straightforward statistical evidence. Obviously unemployment is now falling in America and Britain. But most people dismiss this as a purely cyclical phenomenon — the worldwide economic recovery will merely create a temporary downward blip in the long-term trend of unemployment which continues to point inexorably upwards, they insist. What matters, the sceptics argue, is

“Structural explanations of ineradicable unemployment are widely accepted”

not the year-to-year fluctuations, but the way that in each business cycle the peaks and troughs of unemployment are both higher than in the cycle before. This view, often expressed by businessmen and politicians, is very similar to the argument, heard in the bond markets until last year, that long-term inflation is still inexorably rising. Fortunately, the facts simply do not bear it out. Just as the long term trend of inflation has actually been declining since the mid-1970s, so the long-term trend in unemployment in most industrialised countries has actually been falling, not rising, since around 1982. Both Britain and America have had much lower peak unemployment rates in the latest recession than in the

one of the early 1980s, and the same has been true of the OECD as a whole. There are, of course, exceptions to the general rule that unemployment in the latest recession has been less severe than in the previous recession, but most are in Europe and can readily be explained by two temporary phenomena. These are the excessive increase in social benefits in countries such as Spain, and the deflationary monetary policies caused by the misguided efforts to peg currencies to the German mark.

This brings me to my second reason for optimism about the long-term prospects for unemployment. As the misguided monetary deflation of the late 1980s is reversed, a fundamental flaw may be revealed in the main “structural” explanation of unemployment — that electronic technology has simply destroyed millions of previously secure jobs, especially in the service sector. This implies that the productivity of the world economy has increased enormously, since services are much bigger in the aggregate than the manufacturing activities which used to enjoy the lion's share of productivity growth.

What that means in turn is that there is now the potential for much faster growth of the world economy than there was in the 1970s and 1980s. Although the microchip was developed in the late-1970s, it is normal for 10 to 15 years to elapse before a pathbreaking technological innovation is thoroughly assimilated by industry and begins to generate productivity growth. Unfortunately, however, most business leaders and economists still think they are living in the era of declining productivity growth and low productive potential which began with the

energy crisis of 1973. Instead of aiming for faster economic growth, governments and central banks are still preoccupied with slowing down their economies to match what they perceive as their declining potential growth rates. They are, as usual, fighting the last battle — the one that began in the early-1970s against inflation and unjustified economic optimism.

In the years ahead, as inflation fails to accelerate in the way that pessimists are still expecting, governments will gradually realise they have won the last war and will turn their attention to the new challenge. This is to accelerate economic growth and ensure that demand grows in line with the economic potential of the new world of high technology and free trade. Governments which fail to recognise this new world will eventually be forced out by their voters. This golden age of rapid non-inflationary growth may still be a few years in coming, but it does lie somewhere ahead.

Planning for a happier retirement

Robert Miller expects the Bill to have a tortuous passage through Parliament

The Pensions Bill, trailed in the Queen's Speech yesterday, sets in motion one of the most radical reforms of the industry ever undertaken. On the positive side, there is almost universal agreement from employers, unions and pension scheme members that many of the proposals are long overdue. But despite the acknowledgement that something had to be done to safeguard pension scheme members, particularly after Robert Maxwell was found to have plundered £440 million from company pension schemes within his business empire, the Bill's passage through Parliament is likely to be tortuous.

It is understood that the Bill will be introduced through the House of Lords in mid-December, at the earliest, and will contain about 140 clauses.

The Pensions Bill contains few surprises. The proposals were set out in the White Paper *Equality in State Pension Age*, published in December 1993, and *Security, Equality, Choice: The Future for Pensions*, announced by Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, in June. The aim of the

pension schemes (Serps) to make it easier for contracted-out pension schemes to provide equal treatment. To provide limited price indexation of occupational and appropriate personal pensions. To implement the main recommendations of the Pension Law Review Committee by bringing the management of pension schemes up to the level of best practice. This gives members more influence in the running of their schemes. It introduces a minimum solvency requirement, establishes a new pensions regulator and a compensation scheme. To give greater flexibility to the conversion of pension investments into annuities.

Ron Army, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, whose members run schemes covering 7 million employees, with a total of about £300 billion of pension fund assets, said yesterday: "We will be working with all concerned to ensure that this Bill provides effective and efficient regulation of occupational pensions. The overriding need is to safeguard the pensions of millions of members of these schemes without imposing unnecessary burdens on their employers." But he added that it was vital for the Bill to strike the right balance on the question of minimum solvency arrangements. He said: "We must protect pension scheme members but there must be enough leeway built in to take account of freak stock market conditions. It is also important to clearly define the role of the trustees in making investment decisions. At the moment, trustees have the responsibility for all investment decisions but we believe they must also have a duty to consider the implications of the costs of their decisions on employers."

“The Bill is thought to contain about 140 clauses”

Among the main proposals of the Bill are moves: To equalise the state pension age at 65 for men and women by the year 2020. To give effect in domestic legislation to rulings of the European Court of Justice requiring equal treatment between men and women in occupational pensions. To simplify the arrangements for contracting out of the state earnings-related

schemes without imposing unnecessary burdens on their employers. But he added that it was vital for the Bill to strike the right balance on the question of minimum solvency arrangements. He said: "We must protect pension scheme members but there must be enough leeway built in to take account of freak stock market conditions. It is also important to clearly define the role of the trustees in making investment decisions. At the moment, trustees have the responsibility for all investment decisions but we believe they must also have a duty to consider the implications of the costs of their decisions on employers."

The "Fliegerchronograph" by IWC. You don't need a licence to wear it.

Statutes regarding the wearing of the Fliegerchronograph by IWC.

(as per 1 August 1991)
The International Watch Co. Ltd., Schaffhausen, pursuant to the legendary article "Mark XI by IWC" of 1948, pursuant to the article "Fliegerchronograph by IWC" Ref. 3740, hereby decrees:

A. General conditions

- Art. 1 The wearing of the Fliegerchronograph by IWC requires no form of authorization or licence.
- Art. 2 The only qualification required by wearers of the Fliegerchronograph by IWC is enthusiasm (the precise limits of which are not herein determined).

B. Specific terms

- Art. 3 The internal mechanism of the Fliegerchronograph by IWC consists of 233 individual parts and is protected by an additional soft iron case designed to conduct away magnetic fields.
- Art. 4 The Fliegerchronograph by IWC features two stepping motors to make light work of the following functions:
 - a. Time display:
 1. in hours,
 2. in minutes,
 3. in seconds,
 - b. Date display:
 1. with rapid adjustment
 - c. Chronograph display:
 1. Stop second hand accurate to 1/4 second
 2. Minute counter to 30 minutes,
 3. Hour counter to 12 hours,
 4. Cumulative timing.



£1,600.- stainless steel, with leather strap. Also available on a stainless steel bracelet or in 18 ct. gold on a strap.

Art. 5 Wearing of the Fliegerchronograph by IWC shall not be restricted to pioneers of the air but open to all who venture out on land or sea. The Fliegerchronograph by IWC is unaffected by heights of several thousand metres above the earth, 3 as by depths of up to 50 metres under water.

Art. 6 The case of the Fliegerchronograph by IWC is finished in stainless steel. 2 or in 18 kt. yellow gold.

C. Concluding remarks

Art. 6 Wearers of the Fliegerchronograph are typically in seventh heaven. Even when their feet are firmly on the ground.

IWC

International Watch Co. Ltd., Schaffhausen, Switzerland Since 1868

For illustrated catalogue and list of nationwide concessionaires, please telephone J.W. Benson Ltd on 0800 303303.

The insensitivity of senior industrial management

From Sir Bryan Thomas
Why is it that Lord Young and comparable chairmen are apparently so insensitive to the image they project? What would have been far more seemly, and also far more advantageous to the public perception of industry, would have been a photograph of a sympathetic chairman regretting the necessity of dispersing with so many of his workers and at

the same time saying that he himself was taking a 10 per cent cut in his own personal remuneration. With my own career background as an academic, I would warn such chairmen that our best young people are revolting against the attitudes that they represent. Yours faithfully, BRYAN THOMAS, Milmorpe, Winchester.

Cradle to grave health cover

From Sir John Nicholls
Sir, Now that hospitals are emphasising day-surgery in order to speed up the flow of patients, isn't it time the insurance industry kept pace by designing fresh health cover to incorporate home nursing in the same policy. In fact they could go even further and consider a much wider policy that would embrace all health contingencies up to the final one. In a simple form such a policy would cover health care (doctors and nurses) at home, sickness care (in hospital) and finally if there was anything left in the kitty, a benefit for survivors. In exceptional circumstances the final sum could be large, in others it could be very little, in some, nothing. The policy holder could decide how best to make use of it. Yours faithfully, Sir John Nicholls, Dove Barn, Ormsby, Norfolk.

Vosper is the leader in warship exports

From the Managing Director, Vosper Thornycroft (UK) Ltd
Sir, I am writing to correct a statement in the article by Melvyn Marcus (Business News, November 12) where he says: "The prospect of GEC, owner of the Yarrow yard also capturing Barrow (VSEL)... would eliminate competition between the only two UK shipyards capable of manufacturing and exporting major warships." Vosper Thornycroft, one of

the three principal UK warship yards, has for many years been the leading UK export warshipbuilder with about 75 per cent share of the UK export market. A few facts will serve to confirm this: 1. Over the last 30 years Vosper Thornycroft has supplied over 180 warships to 30 navies. 2. Warships exported range from frigates and corvettes to patrol craft and minehunters. 3. In the last 6 years Vosper Thornycroft has won export orders for warships and related support services to a value in excess of £1 billion.

4. Currently, we have 14 warships on order, including corvettes for Oman, fast patrol craft for Qatar and minehunters for Saudi Arabia. 5. In addition to preparing to bid for Type 23 frigates for the Royal Navy, we are the only UK yard bidding to supply highly sophisticated multipurpose frigates for the United Arab Emirates. Yours faithfully, MARTIN JAY, Managing Director, Vosper Thornycroft Ltd, Victoria Road, Woolston, Southampton.

Prices close below their best

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607	606	605	604	603	602	601
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Small investors drive Renault to £95m gain

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

PRIVATE investors rushed to buy shares in Renault, the carmaker, yesterday, but there was less enthusiasm than there had been for earlier big sell-offs in France. Edmond Alphandery, Economy Minister, said that the retail offer had been 1.4 times oversubscribed and the sale of a minority stake would raise Fr7.95 billion (£95 million).

Workers at Renault, a former bastion of union power, oversubscribed their part 1.45 times. Institutional investors had already oversubscribed their limited part 15.5 times. M. Alphandery said the results were "remarkable". He added that the oversubscription was

smaller than in previous privatisations because the state was keeping a majority stake. That had "dampened" interest, Renault will be quoted on the Paris bourse from today.

The government has reduced its stake in Renault to 51 per cent, from 79 per cent. Volvo, of Sweden, put an 8 per cent stake up for sale yesterday, while keeping 12 per cent of the holding it bought before its plans to merge with Renault failed. Renault raised Fr2 billion in fresh capital yesterday.

M. Alphandery said the government had no plans to sell its controlling interest in Renault. "The privatisation of Renault is not on the agenda," he said. "Renault is a state company and will remain a state company. The

privatisation of Renault is not among the government's objectives."

The retail offer attracted 1,092 million shareholders and the total amount of shares demanded were worth Fr8.6 billion.

The operation valued Renault at about Fr40 billion. Retail investors will pay Fr165 a share, while institutional investors paid Fr170.

Of the 27.9 million shares placed, 30.9 per cent went to French investors, 10.6 per cent to American investors and 58.5 per cent to the rest of the world.

Elf Aquitaine, the oil group, and Lagardere Groupe, with interests ranging from missiles to publishing, have each bought a 1.5 per cent stake, while BNP, the banking group, and

Rhône-Poulenc, the chemical group, took 1 per cent.

Louis Schweitzer, chairman of Renault, declined to give new profit forecasts for the carmaker. Asked what this year's profits would be, he replied that the company had given no forecast since before the start of the public offer. When Renault said that 1994 profits would be sharply higher than they had been in 1993 and, with shareholders' approval, so would the dividend, M. Schweitzer said the carmaker expected to study a number of minor partnerships arrangements over the next few months but had no plans for a large tie-up. He said: "Let me make clear that's 'partnerships' and not a search for a big marriage."

Building plans will hit Land Securities

BY CARL MORTIMER

THE cost of a massive building programme will hit profits at Land Securities, Britain's largest property investment company.

The real estate group plans to spend about £30 million over the next two to three years on new buildings and refurbishments aimed at boosting income in a flat rental market. However, the cost of financing the construction programme will reduce profits short term.

Land Securities has started work on 600,000 sq ft of offices in the City of London, the West End and Victoria in an attempt to upgrade the quality of its London office stock. Construction is due to start next year on the White Rose Centre in Leeds, a 600,000 sq ft shopping centre, and more retail and industrial projects are on the way throughout the country.

Peter Hunt, chairman, yesterday reported a rise in profits for the half year from £116 million to £118.9 million but repeated his warning in May that the potential for increasing profits was limited until rental growth returned.

"Furthermore, our commitment to development expenditure will have an adverse impact on revenue profit in the short term," he added. "It will be difficult to generate a revenue profit for the second half of the year to match that achieved in the first half."

In spite of the flat profits trend, Land Securities is paying an increased interim dividend of 6.5p, up 3.8 per cent on the half year to September 30 1993. Jim Murray, finance director, said the company was prepared to reduce the

dividend cover if necessary. "We have got no fixed level of dividend cover," he said, pointing to a level of 1.25 times at the peak of the market compared with last year's cover of 1.48 times.

Mr Hunt said there were signs of improvement in the London office market, principally by way of reduction in the length of rent-free periods and other incentives to tenants. Having spent more than £600 million on acquiring property since 1990, the company is stepping back from a hotter investment market, Mr Hunt said. "Similar investment opportunities are now scarce."

The development programme will be funded from existing resources, borrowings and property sales, including Milton Gate and Leith House, in the City. Central London schemes are going ahead on a largely speculative basis, with only 45 per cent pre-let, but retail schemes will depend on substantial pre-lettings. Mr Murray explained that Land Securities does not capitalise interest on developments, so the full cost of funding the construction and letting will begin to hit the profit and loss account next year. Profits are not expected to have a significant impact until the 1997-8 financial year.

Mr Hunt said the group had the financial strength to fund the programme.

Net rental income rose from £192 million to £198.5 million and the void rate in the portfolio has fallen from 2.8 per cent to 2.4 per cent of the rent roll.

Tempos, page 26



Oliver Chapple, left, Volex chief executive, Ken Hooper, finance director, and Frank Kennedy, managing director

European Bank recovers helped by strict budgeting

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), heavily criticised in the past for its lax financial controls and lavish spending, chalked up a profit of 3.67 million ecu (£2.86 million) in the third quarter this year.

The bank, set up in 1991 to help to transform the former Soviet bloc to market economies, had shown a loss of 6.06 million ecu, after provisions, in the second quarter.

In a report issued yesterday, the EBRD, whose controversial first president, Jacques Attali, was replaced last year by a fellow Frenchman,

Jacques de Larosiere, attributed its third-quarter profit to better results from banking operations, stringent budget discipline and active and prudent management of liquid assets. M. de Larosiere, formerly governor of the French central bank and co-head of the International Monetary Fund, has curbed spending and restructured the EBRD's operations since taking the helm in October last year. Although his strict economies have prompted criticism that he has demoralised many of the staff at the bank's City headquarters, they have delivered a profit that will please many of the bank's backer governments.

The third-quarter profit reduced the loss for the first nine months this year to 2.45 million ecu, after provisions, which compared with a 23 million ecu loss at the same stage last year. Bank officials expect the EBRD to reach

around break-even for the whole of 1994, despite higher administrative costs arising from increased deal signings and disbursements in the run-up to the end of the year.

The EBRD said disbursements have been lower than last year, but that its commitments to projects was on target. By the end of the third quarter, it had signed up 49 projects.

Operating income reached 46.4 million ecu in the third quarter, a rise of 11 million ecu compared with the second quarter. Income for the first nine months was, however, more than 20 million ecu lower than at the same stage last year, at 140 million ecu.

The bank saw losses from debt securities rise sharply in the third quarter, reflecting general developments in international markets, but it continued to earn relatively high income from substantial liquid assets.

Volex faces strong price competition

VOLEX Group, the international interconnect products and cable assemblies company, said that continuing growth in most of its markets was accompanied by strong price competition (Martin Barrow writes).

Bill Goodall, chairman, said that Volex continued to focus on improving its manufacturing and purchasing efficiencies, a process that had taken on added urgency after significant increases in polymer and copper prices.

In the half year to September 30, pre-tax profits rose to £5.8 million, from £4.8 million, with earnings per share rising to 14.1p (10.5p). A 6.7p interim dividend, up from 6.5p, is due on February 6.

Turnover rose by 7.8 per cent to £78.1 million, from £72.5 million. Operating profits were up by 12.8 per cent at £5.4 million (£4.8 million).

In Britain, Pencon, a subsidiary, benefited from legislation requiring that domestic appliances be sold with fitted plugs.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

EC eases rules over state aid to airlines

NEIL Kinnock will inherit a confused policy on state aid for airlines when he assumes his new role as European transport commissioner, after a decision by the European Commission yesterday to endorse a more lenient state aid code for airlines. The new code would allow governments to prop up national airlines "in exceptional, unforeseen circumstances outside the control of the company."

This loose interpretation has already given rise to a disagreement between two commissioners. Marcelino Oreaga, the outgoing transport commissioner, yesterday told a news conference that wars and currency devaluations would count as circumstances of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. This interpretation was later disputed by a spokesman for Karel van Miert, competition commissioner, who said state aid cannot be justified on grounds of devaluation. The new policy comes amid expectations that Iberia, the Spanish state airline, may soon submit a 1 billion ecu (£800 million) rescue plan involving state aid from the Spanish government to cover the airline's accumulated losses.

Young's beer promise

YOUNG & Co's Brewery, the London brewer, promised to cut the price of beer immediately if excise duty is reduced in the Budget on November 29, with a team ready to tell licensees to cut prices. If duty is increased, prices would stay unchanged until stocks were exhausted, said John Young, chairman. Young blamed beer imports from France, to avoid high UK duty, for a 13 per cent drop in pre-tax profits, to £2.24 million, from £2.58 million, for the half year to October 1 on turnover of £36.4 million (£36.1 million). The interim dividend is held at 7.25p, from earnings per share of 11.34p (12.52p).

VTR increases payout

VTR, the television production facilities company that raised almost £3 million with a rights issue in May, has increased dividend payments for the year to August 31 by 6.67 per cent with a final payout of 2.55p, making 4p. During the period, pre-tax profits rose to £1.3 million, from £884,144, and earnings per share reached 10.5p, from 7.3p. The shares fell 3p to 125p, unchanged from May's rights issue. Video Tape Recording, the subsidiary specialising in post production of television commercials, contributed profits of £1.36 million, up 46 per cent. Projects included commercials for Foster's and Martini.

Grey trade in TeleWest

THE London Stock Exchange is to allow a grey market in the shares of TeleWest from November 22, when the issue is priced, until November 30, when full dealings in the shares begin. The Exchange said it would allow shares in the cable television company to trade on a "when issued" basis to coincide with dealings in the shares on the same basis in New York when TeleWest's registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission takes effect. TeleWest is jointly owned by US West and Tele-Communications Inc and is expected to be valued at up to £1.86 billion when floated.

WMGO optimistic

WMGO Group, the corporate and marketing communications company headed by Bob Morton, the financier, expects good progress for the remainder of its year after reporting a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £254,000, in the six months to August 31. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, jumped by 74 per cent, to £9.09 million. Mr Morton said: "Income for the second half will be substantially higher than the first half, and ahead of the same period last year." Earnings per share dipped to 0.36p (0.46p). There is an interim dividend of 0.5p (nil). Brokers are looking for full-year profits of £2.2 million.

Channel's good tidings

CHANNEL Holdings, the security products group, made pre-tax profits of £902,000 (£808,000) in the half year to September 30 on a turnover of £8.67 million, up from £7.66 million last time. The results included a maiden contribution from Shawley Antony, acquired in July and, the company said, performing well. Earnings improved to 1.8p a share, from 1.7p, and the interim dividend is being raised to 0.55p a share, from 0.5p. Philip Ling, chairman, was optimistic that the group would report further progress in the current financial year. But Channel shares fell 6p to 46p.

Associated British Foods

The Chairman reports.

"An encouraging feature of our company's results this year is the £33 million, 12 per cent, increase in operating profits at a time when heavy competitive pressure continues at home and overseas."

"Our United Kingdom manufacturing divisions increased profits by 11 per cent to £222 million ... British Sugar has again contributed excellent results."

"Retail companies produced profits sharply higher."

"Our net cash resources increased by £109 million to £610 million."

"Dividends ... increase by 7 per cent."

Garry Weston
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

(All stated in accordance with FR53)

	52 weeks to 17 Sept. 1994 £ millions	53 weeks to 18 Sept. 1993 £ millions
Turnover	4,478	4,386
Operating Profit	306	273
Profit before taxation	324	338
Profit attributable to the company	255	228
Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	2,090	1,878
Interim dividends per share	16.0p	15.0p

The above figures relate to the ongoing business and are an extract from the annual report and accounts, sent to shareholders on 16th November, 1994.

Associated British Foods plc
Weston Centre, 68 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LR

CSI in cash call to fund acquisition

BY MARTIN BARROW
CITY NEWS EDITOR

CANNON Street Investments, the mini-conglomerate whose shares fell 40 per cent after disappointing interim results last month, unveiled a £16 million acquisition yesterday, to be funded through a one-for-one rights issue.

The company also proposed the restructuring of its share capital and a new name, Salire, as it tries to break away from its recent problems.

CSI proposes to acquire Maplin Electronics, a distributor and retailer of electronic components and consumer electronic equipment. The acquisition will be funded by a rights issue of new shares at 12p each, against yesterday's closing price of 13p, underwritten by Samuel Montagu.

For the past two years Tom Long, the new chairman, and David Smith, chief executive, a former head of the Gateway parent company Isosceles, have concentrated on the survival of the industrial holding company, which plunged into the red by £116 million in 1992. Businesses were sold or closed, debt was cut and assets written down to a more realistic value as the company focused on one activity, distributing electronic products.

Maplin distributes through retail outlets and consumer and trade mail order and has seen sales grow steadily to £14.6 million in the year to the end of last June.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

APPEARS EVERY TUESDAY

TELEPHONE

071 481 3024 or

Fax 071 481 9313



ATTENTION ALL BUSINESS TRAVELLERS!

Don't miss your chance to win a pair of tickets to New York on Concorde.

SEE THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY TIMES FOR DETAILS.

Vive la difference!

"Never BEFORE have we had so LITTLE time in which to do so much."

F. D. ROOSEVELT

It's a jungle out there. To achieve a decisive victory, time and resources must be used to their full advantage. They must be managed effectively and productively if you are to gain the edge in the relentless fight to get ahead.

Time/system is a world leader in Planning Systems and Productivity Training to enhance personal and business efficiency.

Don't waste time. Contact Time/system now on 0908 282211.

Time/system

Samson House, Maidstone Road, Kingston, Milton Keynes MK10 0AJ
Telephone: 0908 282211 Fax: 0908 282280

Driver 'misled' into pleading guilty

Regina v Burton upon Trent Magistrates Court, Ex parte Woolley

Before Lord Justice Beldam and Mr Justice Buxton
[Judgment November 11]

A police constable was not obliged to tell an injured driver in hospital why a specimen of breath could not be taken. However, at some stage during the process at the hospital the constable had to ask the driver whether there was any reason why a specimen of blood should not be taken. There was no obligation for the constable to ask specifically whether there was any such reason based on medical grounds.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an application brought by the defendant, Philip John Woolley, for a judicial review of his conviction, following a guilty plea, at Burton upon Trent Magistrates Court on July 26, 1994 of driving a motor vehicle when the proportion of alcohol in his blood exceeded the statutory limit, contrary to section 5(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 for which he was sentenced to four months imprisonment.

Mr Morris Cooper for the defendant; Mr John McGuinness for the prosecution; Miss Clare Montgomery as amicus curiae.

MR JUSTICE BUXTON said

that the court was obliged to revisit two issues of recurring difficulty: 1 The procedure to be followed at one particular stage of a breathalyser investigation and the implications of failure to follow that procedure; and 2 The limits of the jurisdiction of the Divisional Court to quash a conviction entered in a magistrates' court on a guilty plea.

Following Mr Woolley's conviction, the Crown Prosecution Service wrote to his solicitors saying that their client had not been asked whether there was any reason why a blood specimen could not be taken by a doctor. In accordance with the judgment of *Williams v DPP* [1994] ETR 241, 243 and *DPP v Warren* [1993] AC 319, that was a deficiency which should not allow the conviction to stand. "Accordingly, should your client wish to appeal the conviction for excess alcohol to the crown court ... the prosecution will not resist any such appeal."

In so writing the CPS appeared to have relied on that part of the judgment in *Williams* that had held that where there had been a failure to observe the required procedure in seeking a blood specimen from a driver in hospital, any sample obtained was inadmissible in evidence, and thus agreed that, since the only evidence on which they would have relied if the matter had been contested would

have been inadmissible, Mr Woolley had been wrong to, and indeed misled into pleading guilty.

There was, however, a substantial difficulty with the suggestion that a conviction to which that perceived defect applied might be appealed to the crown court, since by section 108(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 such appeal lay against conviction only if the defendant had pleaded not guilty in the magistrates' court.

Thus, Mr Woolley applied for a writ of *certiorari* to quash his conviction, on the ground that the intended reliance by the prosecutor on evidence that, without bad faith, he should have known was inadmissible constituted unfairness in the conduct of the proceedings sufficient to vitiate the process leading to conviction, and thus justified the intervention of the Divisional Court under the jurisdiction recognised in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Al-Mehdawi* [1990] 1 AC 876 and *R v Bolton Justices, Ex parte Scally* [1991] 1 QB 537.

The case required their Lordships to look again at the authoritative ruling of the House of Lords in *Warren*, as applied by the Divisional Court in *Williams*. *Warren* was not a "hospital" case and Lord Bridge did not there specifically address the particular requirements that existed in such

cases. The court in *Williams* clearly saw itself as applying the general requirements identified by Lord Bridge to the example of hospital cases, without seeking to add of its own motion to the elements found within Lord Bridge's speech.

In argument before their Lordships, only one aspect of the defendant's complaints was seriously pursued: that the requirement that the driver be asked whether there was any reason why a specimen could not be taken, the medical question, had not been asked after the constable had decided to require a specimen of blood.

The questions that the court had to consider were:

1 Did a specific medical question have to be put to the driver?

2 If so, in what terms did it have to be expressed?

3 If a question had to be put, when?

In his Lordships' judgment, in hospital cases, there was no obligation for the constable to inform the driver why a specimen of breath could not be taken but at some stage during the process at the hospital the constable had to ask the driver whether there was any reason why a specimen of blood should not be taken. There was no obligation for the constable to ask specifically whether there was any such reason based on medical grounds.

In so holding their Lordships were well aware, and was troubled by, the fact that he was adopting a view different from that urged by the DPP and one which might be said to be, in some limited respects, more favourable to prosecutors than the position for which the DPP contended.

However, Mr McGuinness had told their Lordships that the principal desire of the CPS was that the procedural requirements should be certain, which was why the DPP did not seek to disturb the law in *Williams*.

His Lordship well appreciated those considerations but did not feel able to allow them to prevail in the face of arguments that the DPP's view of the required procedure was not justified by the 1988 Act and the elucidation of the requirements of that Act by the House of Lords in *Warren*.

In the present case, the questions asked and information given by the constable contained all the information that was required to be given.

It followed that the requirements of the 1988 Act were observed, that the evidence of the specimen would have been admissible if Mr Woolley had contested the charge and therefore the application had to be dismissed because its fundamental premise was incorrect.

However, since his Lordship's view was different from that urged by the DPP, his Lordship would go

Building not redundant due to enforcement notice

Bruce v Secretary of State for the Environment

The service of an enforcement notice on a building to stop its use in breach of planning control did not render the building redundant and, therefore, the owner of the building could not rely on government policy on the re-use of redundant buildings in the green belt.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Millett) so held on October 25 dismissing Francis Bruce's appeal against the decision of Mr David Keene, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, on November 29, 1993 to dismiss an appeal against a planning inspector's decision to uphold two enforcement notices served under section 172 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by the London Borough of Havering in relation to land within the green belt owned by the appellant.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that the appellant had argued that if the enforcement notices were upheld, and the activities to

which they related had to cease, the buildings on his land would be redundant and, therefore, the policy towards the re-use of redundant buildings had to apply.

In his Lordships' judgment, a redundant building was one for whose design or use there was no

longer a need, common examples included many agricultural buildings and textile mills. A building, of which use had ceased not because there was no need for it but as a result of an enforcement notice, was not a redundant building.

Control over lists

Metcalfe v Bedfordshire County Council

Judges in the county court must have control over their lists and must when exercising their discretion be paramount in matters regarding adjournments of cases.

But it was wrong for a judge to refuse to grant an adjournment of a case when discovery was thought to be incomplete, an expert witness was unable to attend and when both parties consented to the adjournment.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Rose) so held in the Court of Appeal on October 18, when reversing the refusal by Judge Martin, QC, in Clerkwell

County Court on October 17 of an application by Bedfordshire County Council for an adjournment of a personal injury claim brought by Mr D. J. Metcalfe.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that the circumstances of the case, due to hearing in the county court the next day, were unusual and unfortunate.

The plaintiff's consent to the adjournment, despite repeated requests, had only been recently forthcoming. Having regard to the three matters raised in the application the judge should as a matter of principle have granted the application. The trial was adjourned for a date to be fixed.

Basement under property next door renders dwelling not a house

Duke of Westminster and Others v Birrane

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Saville

[Judgment November 10] A leasehold premises property that was converted to incorporate a basement area that lay beneath the rear part of an adjoining property was not a "house" for the purposes of enfranchisement under the Leasehold Reform Act 1967.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when allowing an appeal by the landlord, the trustees of the will of the second Duke of Westminster, from the judgment of Judge Rich, QC, at Central London County Court on July 16, 1993 in which he had declared in favour of the tenant, Mr Martin Birrane, that the premises at 2 Kinnerton St, Westminster, including the basement area that lay beneath the rear part of 2 Wilton Crescent, was a house for the purposes of sections 1 and 2 of the 1967 Act.

Section 1(1) of the Act confers on "a tenant of a leasehold house, occupying the house as his residence, a right to acquire on fair terms the freehold or an extended lease."

Section 2(1) defines "house" as including "any building designed or adapted for living in and reasonably so called, notwithstanding that the building is not structurally detached..."

Section 2(2) provides that references "to a house do not apply to a house which is not structurally detached and of which a material part lies above or below a part of the structure not comprised in the house."

Mr Robert Reid, QC, for the landlord; Mr Paul Morgan, QC, for the tenant.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the appeal raised two questions: 1 What was the "house" within section 2(1) of the 1967 Act, and 2 If part of it lay below a part of the structure not comprised in it, was that a "material" part of the house within section 2(2)?

The authorities on each question were in an unsatisfactory state. The main part of 2 Kinnerton St consisted of a three-floored structure: it had been converted to incorporate and was a basement area of some 140 square feet that lay beneath the rear part of 2 Wilton Crescent. The only access to that area was from the main part of 2 Kinnerton St.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Ormsby Mills, Burton upon Trent; Crown Prosecution Service, South Staffordshire; Treasury Solicitor.

The tenant in 1984 had adapted the area to provide a bedroom and bathroom but by 1990 had abandoned its use as part of his residence because of flooding problems.

The judge, deciding both questions in the tenant's favour, held (i) that the "house" within section 2(1) was the main part of 2 Kinnerton St and did not include the basement area and (ii) even if it did, the part that lay under the rear of 2 Wilton Crescent was not a "material" part within section 2(2).

In construing the provisions it was important to distinguish between section 1(1) which conferred the right of acquisition and section 2(1) by which the building to be acquired was identified.

Authority apart, it would appear clear that the requirement that the tenant should occupy the house as his residence ought not to have any influence on its identification.

However in *Pack v Anicor Properties Ltd* [1971] 1 All ER 517, 519 Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, had said that "one must look at three things to find what is the 'house': (i) the lease itself; (ii) the portion occupied as a residence; and (iii) the physical condition of the structure."

But by not distinguishing between sections 1(1) and 2(1) Lord Denning had brought into the identification two largely irrelevant matters. Section 2(1) did not require either the lease or the portion occupied as a residence to be taken into account.

The correct approach to the construction of sections 1(1) and 2(1) was as follows: the first requirement of section 1(1) was that there should be a leasehold house held by the tenant.

To find out whether that requirement was satisfied you went straight to section 2(1) which invited you to identify a building held by the tenant and designed or adapted for living in; it need not be structurally detached, nor solely designed or adapted for living in.

If and when you had identified such a building you had to consider whether it was reasonable to call it a house. If it was then you went back to the other requirements of section 1(1) and considered next whether the tenant was occupying the building as his residence. You did not consider that question unless and until the requirements of section 2(1) were satisfied.

Here the building held by the tenant which was designed or adapted for living in was the whole

of 2 Kinnerton St including the basement area.

The use which the tenant had or had not made of the basement area was beside the point. It was and had at all material times been a part of a building held by the tenant which was designed or adapted for living in.

Thus the second question had to be considered. If the house fell within section 2(2) it was excluded from the operation of the Act and the tenant had no right to enfranchise it. Was the part of the basement area which lay below 2 Wilton Crescent a "material" part of 2 Kinnerton St?

The primary purpose of that provision had to be the exclusion from the operation of the Act of houses in respect of which the inability of one freehold owner to enforce positive obligations against successors in title of the other would be likely to prejudice the enjoyment of the house or another part of the structure.

Although the question of materiality was one of fact and degree on which the judge's view was of prime importance, the test he had to apply was a matter of law on which it might be necessary, as it was here, for an appellate court to express a view.

Neither of the tests that had been suggested by Lord Denning and by Lord Justice Stephenson in *Pursons v Trustees of Henry Smith's Charity* [1973] 1 WLR 845, 849, 854 was wholly satisfactory.

To be a "material" part the basement area had to be of sufficient substance or significance to have an effect of some kind. What might that effect be?

Bearing in mind the primary purpose of section 2(2) it had to be prejudice to the enjoyment of the house or another part of the structure caused by enfranchisement, in particular by reason of the inability of one freehold owner to enforce positive obligations against successors in title of the other.

That test might be found to exclude from the operation of the Act houses of which little more than a trivial part lay above or below a part of the structure not comprised in it.

If it was applied to the basement area in the present case it was obvious that that area was a material part of 2 Kinnerton St.

LORD JUSTICE MANN and LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE agreed.

Solicitors: Boodle Hatfield, Jeffrey Green Russell.

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 071 481 4481

ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE

FAX:
071 782 7828



Merseyside Police

The modern police service must harness 'leading-edge' technology and modern business practice whilst maintaining traditional virtues of the public sector.

Merseyside Police is at the forefront of the response to this situation. It recognises that to achieve the high standards agreed with its Police Authority a major programme of change needs to be implemented. This programme is designed to ensure that all staff, police officers and civilians, have the knowledge, skills, information systems and organisation to do their jobs effectively. The Senior Management role is to provide vision and leadership thus enabling the force to achieve its strategic objectives.

Whilst the aim is to establish a devolved organisation much of the current thrust must come from the Chief Constable and the Board. As Director of Finance and Information Systems you will be a member of that Board operating at a level equivalent to Assistant Chief Constable. You will be responsible for developing and managing comprehensive financial and information systems functions as well as Estates, Management and Management Services. You will play a leading role in the change management programme with particular emphasis on:

- developed and accountable financial management
- an integrated strategy for networked information and communications systems
- the introduction of market testing of support services where appropriate or required by legislation

Merseyside Police is an employer committed to equal opportunities

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

INVESTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

CA will carry out financial projects or other tasks.
For details:
Fax 27 11 787 3765

Long term development and growth in private limited company expanding in Central London. Individuals aged 22-28 seeking opportunities in financial markets. Potential to progress to senior management, with full profit participation. Call: 0181 787 3765

BRITISH WEST INDIES: TRUST OFFICER

Must have experience in the administration of Trusts with particular emphasis on investments. Client development essential. Tax-free salary commensurate with age and experience.

Please send resume by facsimile to M&S Trust Company at: (809) 946 4663.

DANIELS BATES
PARTNERSHIP

Further details of this post Ref: PSD057 can be obtained from MARTIN HOUSE on (0115) 948 3321 or JOHN HARRIS on (0113) 246 1671 at Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYTICS / RISK MANAGEMENT FINANCIAL MARKETS

City

As the oldest Banking Corporation within the Pacific Rim, it is not longevity alone which has elevated this organisation into the position of community leadership and deserved respect. Indeed for more than a century and a half, our client has evolved a corporate culture and a business strategy which has enabled it to sustain a competitive advantage over its rivals within the financial services markets.

Its corporate culture embraces the fundamental values of quality control, customer service and high staff morale thus creating an innovative, ethical and rewarding working environment.

Its business strategy derives from the concept that a business cannot be "all things to all people", but that narrowing one's focus and being selective - about products, customers, investments, offices - is fundamental to success. By exercising choices our client has gained "best performer" status in the areas it has chosen to define as its core businesses.

This strategy, married with its inherent strengths, must ensure continued profitability and growth for the foreseeable future.

If you qualify and would like to be part of an established institution with a contemporary philosophy call Ruth Velenski on 071 925 0848 | DAYTIME | or 081 959 8279 | SUNDAY 5PM TO 9PM OR EVENINGS 8PM TO 10PM | Alternatively write to her at the address below



TALISMAN

Information Systems

DORLAND HOUSE, 14-16 REGENT STREET, LONDON SW1V 4PH.



ACCOUNTANT
TOP 1000 Firms 1993

GROUP ACCOUNTANT £40,000+ per annum
FCA/ACA with impressive qualifications, strong analytical & interpersonal skills, 5 years experience within the banking/finance sector. High profile role in London City financial hub.

LAW COSTS DRAFTSMAN £28,000
5 years experience of Wills, Claims, Trusts, etc. Negotiations and providing Costs advice. Major City Law Firm.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT £27,000+ benefits
Newly Qualified ACA with "Top 6" extensive working experience within the banking/finance sector. Knowledge of derivatives instruments.

INTERNAL AUDITOR £25,000
A good team leader with excellent communication skills and experience in the banking industry. Must combine with a newly qualified ACA from "Top 6". Must be prepared to travel within the UK.

FUND ACCOUNTANT £25,000+ benefits
Newly Qualified ACA from top 6 FCA with 3 years experience of banking/finance sector. Must combine with a newly qualified ACA from "Top 6". Must be prepared to travel within the UK.

ACCOUNTS MANAGER £23,000+
Expanding Property Management Co. Dynamic career-oriented person to manage Accounts. Must combine with a newly qualified ACA from "Top 6". Must be prepared to travel within the UK.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ACCT £18,000
Manage portfolio of clients, service charge reconciliations, repairs, etc. Must have solid 2 year exp. and be TRA4000 finance.

ASSISTANT SYNDICATE ACCOUNTANT £25,000
Part Qualified Accountant with extensive Lloyd's syndicates accounting experience. Must have a commitment to qualify and have Level 123 registration.

UNIT TRUST ADMINISTRATOR
Part Qualified Accountant with 1/2 years experience in a syndicate, handling unit trust investments. Must have Level 123, 124/25 registration.

INSTITUTIONAL FX SALES

Our client is one of the world's leading financial institutions with an outstanding reputation for FX dealing.

At their European HQ in London, they now seek to expand their high calibre FX team to meet rising customer demand. This position deals specifically with US-based hedged funds and financial institutions dealing into the London market.

It is an ideal development move for a graduate with at least two years' experience of this client base and the potential to excel in a foreign exchange career.

A competitive salary and benefits package will fully reflect the right candidate's experience and potential.

In the first instance, please send your full cv and a covering letter to: Ref: 5864, Stafford Long & Partners Recruitment Limited, 30-32 Whitefield Street, London W1P 6HR.



ACCOUNTANCY

A fairer view of loss relief

BY PAUL MORRIS

DURING the past two centuries, a patchwork system for the taxation of profits, income and gains has evolved in the United Kingdom.

The tax system has now reached such a level of complexity and volume that it is in imminent danger of becoming unworkable, if not incomprehensible.

The volume of work has arisen, however, not only from a question of style, anti-avoidance measures and a plethora of diverse pieces of legislation, but also from the introduction of major new tax schemes.

This growing mountain of legislation is built on a very elderly basic framework of taxation known as the schedular system.

With this in mind, different organisations — political and fiscal — are considering what should be done to reform the whole system. I will consider just one aspect here which might be the subject of urgent reform.

The schedular system is one of the main roots of our difficulties. Different classes of income are dealt with under quite separate rules for computation and assessment and often the two do not meet.

This is a costly administrative burden in itself but the separateness of the sets of rules can have very expensive direct tax costs for the taxpayer. The most glaring of these

relates to the inability to offset brought-forward losses from one class of income (or even source) against the profits, income or capital gains of another.

The result of this is that taxpayers in this predicament can end up paying a much higher effective rate of tax on their global net profits than they would if they were exclusively profitable.

For instance, different trades carried on by the same company are treated as different sources for tax purposes. Losses made by a taxpayer in a particular trade cannot be used in future years except against profits of the same loss-making trade.

Such profits would not include capital gains made in respect of assets which had been used in that trade.

It could be, for example, that in order to make a loss-making trade viable, the owner company decides to release much-needed cash by selling a valuable property which it occupies.

This might create a taxable capital gain. Prior-year losses of the trade could not be used to shelter the capital gain on the sale of the property, and the consequent tax bill on the capital gain would reduce the cash available to rebuild the ailing business.

Any future capital losses of the company could not be



Paul Morris says full loss relief could be implemented soon

carried back to relieve this chargeable gain.

The best way to simplify taxation in the United Kingdom would be to replace, in part, the schedular system with a global tax system.

Among many other things, this would allow all losses to

be relieved against a particular taxpayer's profits before they pay tax.

In the case of groups of companies, each company is treated as a separate taxpayer. There are extensive tax rules for transactions within a group and financing and relief

for losses and advance corporation tax suffered.

If it were possible for UK group members to elect to be treated as one single taxpayer for United Kingdom purposes, then whole raft of legislation and potential difficulty in settling their tax affairs would be bypassed, thus simplifying matters greatly.

On the matter of full relief for losses before taxation, it must be right for a group to be able to relieve all of its losses — from whatever class or source of income.

Tax reform is urgently needed, but it would require time for full consideration. The full utilisation of losses is something that could be provided for as early as the forthcoming Budget.

It might be argued that giving relief for total losses against profits would mean the Government having to increase the official rates of corporation tax and income tax.

The need to increase the official rate would only recognise the fact that the rate of tax at present suffered by taxpayers would be equal to any increased official rate, as it would be the level of unutilised losses that presently enables the Government to keep the current official rates down.

Paul Morris is senior corporate tax partner at Binder Hamlyn

Institute keeping the sunshine out

IN JULY 1992, the English ICA issued an enthusiastic press release. *The Institute lets the sunshine in*. It was going to throw the doors of its previously secret council sessions open to ordinary members, press and public, from October of that year.

The president, Ian Plaistowe, was quoted extensively. "I hope that by doing so, council will be able to demonstrate publicly," he said, "that the institute's primary role, as it always has been, is to act in the public interest. I believe the result should be to strengthen confidence in self-regulation by the profession."

As you might have suspected on reading such guff at the time, Plaistowe was spouting hogwash. This month's council meeting, two years after the first open session, was deemed to be dealing with matters so secret that nobody but council members could be admitted to any part of its deliberations. Openness had come to an end.

Actually that is marginally unfair. In theory, any member of the institute, press, public or even Austin Mitchell MP could have turned up. They would have been allowed to hear the minutes of the previous month's meeting read and then they would have been turned out. The institute's openness policy, like so many of its policies, has faltered and expired.

The institute has devised some extraordinary methods of shooting itself in the foot over the years, but this one, at a time when it is constantly belly-aching to government about its commitment to the public interest, is by far the most spectacular.

When I put it to Andrew Colquhoun, the institute's chief executive, that it seemed extraordinary that no one had sought to avoid such a gaffe by producing at least something to discuss which related to the public interest, he blustered. The gist of his excuse was that the very idea of changing the agenda just to enable part of the meeting to be held in public, shocked him deeply.

So, forsaking the accountability profession, I went last week to the Law Society's monthly council meeting. I can report that, by comparison, this was a meeting of grown-ups, and they were discussing, in a relaxed and determined way, items which were, by and large, of public interest.

Even Tony Gilling's spirited explanation of the plans to celebrate next year's 150th

anniversary of the granting of the society's charter was a joy to hear — particularly when he announced that it proposed to ditch any idea of commemorative mugs.

However, the shock of the meeting was that it lasted about the same length as that of the average English ICA council meeting. It started at 9.30 am and at 10.10 am the press was asked to leave. This caused genuine surprise. Having done my research I had set aside most of the morning. I had been warned that the open sessions of the meeting generally lasted from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm. The closed session of the meeting usually lasted a further half hour.

People apologised. After the meeting they expressed great regret that the debate, on conveyancing, had not been in public, and the Law Society issued a press release stating what had been discussed and decided.

This sort of behaviour would not have gone down well at the English ICA. If the open session has limped only to the half-hour mark before the press are ejected, there are smug smiles all round. Once again the council has triumphed and can get down to the real business behind closed doors. The idea of admitting the debate should have been in public is unthinkable — but thinking is not a strong point at the English ICA council.

Meanwhile, the Law Society is trying to ratify a plan to provide its office-holders' employers with compensation for losing their earning-power during their year of office.

Needless to say, the English ICA is having none of such nonsense. Strangling an idea at birth is about the only instinctive strategy it possesses. No wonder, as one senior member of the Law Society said to me, the English ICA council's decisions are "met with considerable derision".

The answer, of course, would be for the institute's council to behave in a way which suggested it felt the institute was a worthwhile professional body. It should copy the Law Society and have the entire meeting open to the press and public except for an extremely short time when something like staff pay rises are discussed.

And if it claims it cannot do that because it is discussing nothing which relates to the public interest, you really wonder what the members are doing there in the first place.



ROBERT BRUCE

Sympathy at the Savoy

THE accountancy profession is still trying to ignore the fact that its current proposals to help bring about the integration of the various accounting bodies has collapsed. The amiable David Bishop, who will go to the grave wishing that he had never allowed his name to be put to the ill-fated report on how integration should be implemented, is still trying. He has been hard at work breakfasting the various

bodies' chief executives on an individual basis in the hope that he can find some common ground. The hot news is that he has. They all seem very much to enjoy taking breakfast at the Savoy.

Spreading shock

SIR David Tweedie, the chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, had something of a shock at the awards dinner to celebrate 25

years of the *Accountancy Age* newspaper last week. Unfortunately, his description in the programme had him down as from the Accounting Standards Board. He thought that this matched his image of standing his ground and forcing through tough rules on financial reporting. Sadly, many of the finance directors present suggested that it meant that he was somewhat of a paterfamilias which could spread on toast and eat for breakfast.

Nuts

AS Bob Monkhouse, the comedian, was presenting the award for the Large Firm of the Year at the *Accountancy Age* awards, he started musing mischievously on the name of the winner. "KPMG", he said. "Who would call a firm after a bag of peanuts and a sports car?" The smiling senior partner, Colin Sharman, accepted the award but offered no comment.

King-sized Fred

RICHARD Hall, of Binder Hamlyn, is a disappointed man. Speaking recently about the financial reporting exposure draft on related party disclosures, he regretted that it was known by its acronym, FRED 8. Surely HENRY 8 would have been better? he inquired. "After all", said Hall, "he was a monarch who displayed particular creativity in accounting for his related parties."

ROBERT BRUCE

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 071 481 4481

ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE

FAX:
071 782 7828



Corporate Review Manager

Europe 120,000/£50,000 + Bonus
Based Germany

Creative, senior management role for dynamic qualified Accountant, eager to progress rapidly to an International group role within two years. Key responsibilities include:

- International audit review planning and procedures implementation.
- Report writing and strategic planning.
- Budget preparation and analysis.
- Post acquisition review and reporting.

Requiring an individual fluent in German, this is a superb opportunity for individuals who thrive on challenge.

Management Accountant

to £22,000 Northants

Key accounting role for recently qualified ACCA/ACCA seeking to join a profitable and progressive company. Key responsibilities include:

- In-depth management accounts preparation and review.
- Budget preparation and analysis.
- Product costing and systems implementation.
- PC and spreadsheet experience essential.

European Treasury Manager

£35,000 + Benefits Northants

An in-depth, responsible leading role within a fast-moving International company. Key responsibilities include:

- Asset management.
- Currency accounting and involvement planning and implementation.
- Proven track record within this environment essential.

Telephone Carol Johnson or Wendy Smith-Hewes or Pamela Wallace on (01604) 26162 or (01536) 519333
77a St Giles Street, Northampton, NN1 1JF
1b The Headlands, Kettering, Northants, NN16 7ER

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Furniture retailing company c.£30K
Head Office in Thurrock, Essex.

We are a growing company with seven retail outlets in London and the Home Counties and are seeking a qualified Accountant with excellent organisational and personal skills.

The successful applicant will have full responsibility for all accounting functions, reporting directly to the Managing Directors. He or she will be fully computer literate and fluent French would be a definite advantage.

You will be required to produce full Management Accounts on a monthly basis and be able to lead a departmental team of eight staff.

The company is offering an attractive salary in the region of £30,000 and benefits.

Applicants should write with a full C.V. to:

Mr Grossman GOODMAN JONES
29/30 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HH

POSITION WANTED

Chartered Accountant
5 yrs PQE, big 'G' Audit
Manager recently returned
from overseas compact seeks
position in industry.
Great potential, extremely
motivated and ambitious to
succeed. Strong interpersonal
skills.

Please contact 0273 773107
evening/weekend or Box No 1597

GRADUATE TRAINEES

TRADE IN TAX
We are currently looking
for graduates for the large
international practice in
Central London and around
the M25 who are looking for
graduates to train in tax. A 2-3
years and 24 UCQA points and
A Level are essential. There
are outstanding career
opportunities that should not
be missed.
For further information ring
Howard Keeney
First Accountancy
071 287 5391 (Rev Case)

Financial Services Accountant

£21,467 - £24,757 per annum

FHA is one of London's largest housing associations with some 8,000 homes. An innovative approach to meeting housing need and a substantial development programme. Due to our continuing growth we are seeking to recruit a qualified accountant with excellent technical skills to strengthen our management accounting function, enhance the financial management of our subsidiary, Landmark Housing Association, and provide day-to-day technical support on taxation matters.

You will be a senior member of the Management Accounting Team based at our Head Office in Clapham, and will have the following skills and abilities:

- Qualified (ICAEW, ACCA, CIMA, or CIPFA) probably with at least two years' post qualification experience covering: management accounting, corporation tax computations, VAT and Income Tax compliance and dealing with the Inland Revenue.
- Proven ability to effectively manage and control a company's budgets.
- Strong analytical skills with the ability to conduct detailed research technical aspects of accounting and taxation.
- Competent use of Lotus 123 and computerised accounting systems.
- A commitment to providing a quality service in a pressurised environment.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.

We offer a 35 hour week with flex-time, a generous pension, life assurance policy, 27½ days holiday increasing with service and parking.

FHA is committed to an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all people regardless of their age, creed, disability, gender, race and sexuality.



Please contact
the Personnel
Department,
for an application
pack at 373-377
Clapham Road,
London,
SW9 9BT or fax
on 071-737 1809
quoting
reference Q296.

Closing dates for
completed
applications is strictly
12 noon on
Wednesday 7th
December 1994.

C.V.'s will not be
accepted.
We operate a no
smoking policy.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (REVENUES)

Plan, manage and develop a £multimillion revenues operation

Up to £38,943 inclusive of car option

Luton Borough Council is a major service organisation, with a customer base which includes over 170,000 people and no less than 5,000 businesses. Clearly, our continued success depends upon our ability to collect the revenues due to us and pay out the benefits due to others, efficiently and professionally. This, in essence, will be your challenge as manager of our Local Taxation and Benefits operations.

This influential senior role offers exciting professional scope. Reporting to the Finance Director, you will manage a large organisation via your own team of managers - providing a clear professional lead and delivering a cost effective, customer focused service which fully meets (and anticipates) our changing needs.

In particular, you will be expected to plan and drive a wide ranging programme of improvement, encompassing people, systems and practices. This will involve initiating, managing and communicating change not only within your own department, but also at senior levels throughout the Council.

To be considered you will need several years' experience of managing a large, IT based Customer Service or Collections/Benefits operation, gained within a progressive service organisation. The ability to direct, develop and inspire a large team is especially important, as is a proven ability to influence thinking at senior levels and to promote change.

Articulate, credible, confident yet diplomatic, you will be an effective planner and budget manager, with a strong commitment to achieving results. We would stress that previous knowledge of Local Authority practices and issues, whilst useful, is by no means essential to this role, and an appropriate professional qualification would be a definite advantage.

In return, we can offer you good career prospects within our rapidly progressing organisation and an attractive salary package which includes relocation assistance where appropriate.

We welcome applications from women and ethnic minority candidates who are currently under represented at this level and in this area of work. Section 38 (1) (b) RRA 1976 and Section 48 (1) (b) SDA 1975 applies.

For an application form and further details please write to the Human Resource Management Division, Apex House, 30-34 Upper George Street, Luton, Beds LU1 2BR. Tel (0582) 746621 or use our Answerphone on (0582) 38307. In making appointments all applications will be considered solely on the basis of their merit. Please quote reference KDF286. Closing date for completed applications 28th November 1994.

We operate a guaranteed interview scheme - candidates with a registerable disability, who are judged to meet the essential criteria, will be guaranteed an interview.

We value equality
because quality
services need the
best people - from
the whole community.



WHERE EQUALITY MATTERS

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

VISUAL ART page 36

Living tradition: newly carved figureheads go on show in a floating gallery on the Thames

ARTS

PANTOMIME page 37

The Times Theatre Club's essential guide to Christmas shows around the country



CINEMA: Geoff Brown is touched by the Welsh postmaster brought to life by a Hollywood star, but disappointed by *The Shadow*

Hurt grows from pain

Welsh village postmaster wanted for a film called *Second Best*. Emotionally stunted, a sexual virgin, approaching middle age. Needs to dress in train-spotter's anorak, ginger hair, NHS specs and brown V-necked pullover. No charisma necessary.

So which actor gets the job? William Hurt, a Hollywood actor of dashing mien and glowing intensity, whose private life has been a tabloid writer's dream. Hurt's casting, however, is the only obvious concession this absorbing film — created in Britain, financed by Hollywood — makes to box-office appeal. Expect no drug busts or commando raids from Chris Menges's treatment of David Cook's novel: just a withdrawn, single man and the prickly child he hopes to adopt, two damaged lives trying to heal in a damp Welsh village.

Not that Hurt disfigures Menges's film, the third directorial venture for the former cameraman, following *A World Apart* and the less successful *Crisis Cross*. His light Welsh accent is respectable, and his laidback acting, entirely suits Graham Holt, the lonely man struggling to assert himself after years of self-denial.

Holt's mother is dead, his father dying, his whole life hollow. He needs fulfilment, although he could have chosen an easier route than the adoption of James, an 11-year-old orphanage boy fiercely loyal to his absent father (Keith Allen), who is 'serving' time in jail. Graham must learn to express feelings never previously acknowledged. For his part, the boy (a notable performance from newcomer Chris Cleary Miles) must lower his guns and channel his need for love down new paths.

For all its dramatic shifts, their relationship makes for low-key cinema, and some

Second Best

Warner West End
12.105 mins
Absorbing adoption drama from David Cook's novel

The Shadow

Plaza, 12.107 mins
Glamorous return of the 1930s crimefighter

I Love Trouble

Odeon West End
PG, 123 mins
Julia Roberts and Nick Nolte try to be Hepburn and Tracy

Airheads

MGM Trocadero
15.92 mins
Passable rock comedy

Final Combination

MGM Panton Street
18.93 mins
Inept thriller

Clean, Shaven

ICA Cinema, 77 mins
Gruelling exploration of schizophrenia

My Fair Lady

MGM Shaftesbury
Avenue, U, 175 mins
Gleaming restoration of the 1964 musical

fringe elements in the script

as a result. Jane Horrocks's brash, girl from Social Services, all lipstick, cheeky specs and extravagant hair, seems to have strayed from a Mike Leigh set. Audiences must also navigate John Hurt's fruity cameo as Graham's Uncle Turpin. The odd phrase in Cook's dialogue sticks out too far: when Graham refers to his father's hands as "like injured birds looking for a safe place to roost", we hear a writer at work, not a character talking.

But for the most part the film's core is delicately ob-

served, and laced with wry humour. Menges is not one of those former cameramen who shove pretty pictures before your eyes. He is a concerned, loving observer of people and their problems, and lets them work their quiet magic.

Hurt is not the only star this week to transform his image. Alec Baldwin begins *The Shadow* with long hair, black fingernails and a mean scowl, a crime lord in 1930s Tibet. Subsequently, after a few plot convolutions, he dons a wide-brimmed hat, a cloak, a red scarf draped across the lower face, and one of the make-up team's finest hook noses.

This is the uniform of the Shadow, the crime fighter whose adventures filled the airwaves and pulp magazines of the 1930s and 1940s (Orson Welles found early employment acting the role on the radio). His resurrection is no cause for rejoicing: director Russell Mulcahy has made one of those glamorizing films where the story, the characters, the eye-grabbing sets and special effects never find the right balance.

Things begin badly in Tibet, with clumsy expository scenes stuffed with snarling actors and an annoying dagger with an animated head. Off to New York next, for art deco towers, straight-faced talk about "brilliant spheres", ruby rings and atomic bombs, plus Ian McKellen wasting his time as a dotty scientist.

Once John Lone steps out of a sarcophagus in Mongol warrior gear, the Shadow's nemesis and the last descendant of Genghis Khan, some dark humour enters the mix. "So, what brings you to the Big Apple?" Baldwin asks, reclining in Brooks Brothers' finest.

But the gadgets, showy sets and unsympathetic characters crush any jokes that may creep into David Koepp's script. They crush the one female, too: a socialite played by Penelope Ann Miller, who



"Two damaged lives trying to heal in a damp Welsh village": William Hurt and Chris Cleary Miles in a scene from Chris Menges's film, *Second Best*

shares a telepathic bond with Baldwin's vigilante. The radio show's famous tag-line was: "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?" In this case, who cares?

The wardrobe team was also busy in *I Love Trouble*: inevitably so, for the film co-stars Julia Roberts. The hair is down, then the hair is up. A cub reporter in Chicago, her salary allows her to dress for glamour: but once comedy gives way to perilous thrills, out come the jeans and sweaters. Completing the fashion show, director Charles Shyer arranges for close-ups of her legs every 30 minutes or so.

Nick Nolte's legs he never bothers with. Nolte is the cynical old-timer on a rival paper, covering a story that

takes the pair from a nasty train wreck and a clue in a birdcage to a chemical plant and a hormone that speeds the production of milk in cows.

The inspiration for this kind of nonsense is obvious: Tracy-Hepburn battles of the sexes, newspaper comedies like *His Girl Friday*, and later romps like *North By Northwest*. But Shyer and his partner Nancy Meyers are no Golden Age glories like Wilder and Brackett, or Hecht and MacArthur. Their jokes have no bite, their dialogue no glitter.

To make matters worse, they let their film topple over with a too-elaborate finale. Dean Tavoularis may have enjoyed modelling the chemical plant on a Frank Lloyd Wright building, but the vast

size only highlights the puny material unfolding within. As for the players, they trade their quips and flash their smiles — but no star power can make the film work.

Audiences need another rock'n'roll comedy as much as they need German measles. *Airheads* scarcely rejuvenates the genre, but director Michael Lehmann keeps the film hurtling forwards even when the plot stands still. The aspiring group is called the Lone Rangers: Steve Buscemi on bass, Adam Sandler on drums, Brendan Fraser as lead warbler. Armed with toy guns, the buffoons take a radio station hostage and demand their demo disc gets aired. Rowdy but good-natured, the film at least hits its lowly

target. Not all movie fodder can claim as much.

Passing swiftly over *Final Combination*, directed by Nigel Dick — an inept thriller that wastes Michael Madsen as an LA cop but proves all too good a showcase for the limited talents of others — we arrive at *Clean, Shaven*, an American independent movie to tremble over. Few films have penetrated schizophrenia so intensely as this first feature from Lodge Kerrigan, a 30-year-old New Yorker.

The soundtrack alone is disturbing enough. Jangling coat hangers, dripping taps: every noise is amplified in the head of the schizophrenic, played by Peter Greene, struggling to contact his daughter. And you soon come to dread

whenever he reaches for a sharp edge, although at least the images of self-mutilation are in black and white. Kerrigan's control is impressive, but he has created an experience that only masochists are likely to relish.

For relief, you could always plunge into the familiar tunes and Edwardian finery of the 1964 *My Fair Lady*. Both sound and image have been cleaned up for this 70mm restoration, and Audrey Hepburn's voice has been restored to "Wouldn't It Be Lovely", previously dubbed by Marni Nixon. In this music video age, the film's pace and weight may now appear elephantine; but the personal magnetism of Hepburn and Rex Harrison still count for plenty.

Smith's rage against the dying

THEATRE: Albee's towering new masterpiece has a cast fit for the gods, says Benedict Nightingale

Edward Albee has acknowledged that the subject of this play was his adoptive mother, a strong, cold woman who made him very unhappy, as he did her. "I did not like her much, could not abide her prejudices, her loathings, her passions," he writes. "But I did admire her pride, her sense of self. As she began rapidly falling both physically and mentally, I was touched by the survivor, the figure clinging to the wreckage only partly of her own making, refusing to go under."

That could be a prescription for vindictive self-justification, self-pity, nostalgia, sentimentality, or some glutinous mixture of all those things. In fact, Albee has never before written with such detached passion. His play has the force of the deeply personal, yet somehow contrives to transcend it. It begins as a rueful case-study of old age and ends up a powerful meditation on change and death. It is also a living reproach to



Anastasia Hille, Maggie Smith and Frances de la Tour triumph in *Three Tall Women*

those of us who had written off the author of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *A Delicate Balance* as a burnt-out volcano or blown-out hurricane, a dramatist 30 years past his prime.

The first half of Anthony Page's production is the more conventional, if what is very nearly a monologue for Maggie Smith can ever be so described. Anastasia Hille, playing a visiting lawyer, interjects odd notes of cool,

Three Tall Women

Wyndham's

politically correct disapproval. Frances de la Tour is at once cynical and accepting, a companion half-complicit with her employer's forays into infantilism. But it is, as it should be, Smith who commands the stately blue bedroom that Carl Toms has designed as her last anchorage.

The unnamed "tall woman" she plays is 91, or maybe 92, and slips from mood to mood as whimsically as from age to age. Back erect, face pinched, voice rising to a squawk or a growl, she is variously suspicious, accusing, confused, clear, tearful, mischievous, baleful, and in a sort of blank, amorphous despair.

The present seems hazy for her, but the past is often vivid, never more so than when she describes an erotic approach by her long-dead husband that she could not bring herself to accept. What actress but Smith could make you see the moment's absurdity, yet feel its awful pathos?

But then it is hard to imagine anybody giving a more complete account of Jacques's pantaloons, female version, falling into second childhood and mere oblivion. Even so, the best and most imaginative of the play is still to come.

Up goes the curtain on the second half, and what appears to be Smith lying comatose in bed, victim of a stroke. Then on walks the lady herself, accompanied by the same

supporting actresses. But each has a new role. Each is the "tall woman" at a different time of her life: Hille the maiden, de la Tour the matron, Smith the crone.

Hille exudes dreamy, girlish hope. de la Tour (particularly strong in this half) an independent woman's contempt for such naivety, Smith a half-amused fatalism. Love, marriage, motherhood — all the things idealised by the maiden — have turned out to be disappointing and banal.

Albee offers a bit of solace towards the end, but it is not very convincing. This tripartite woman — by now an archetype of her gender — looks at what she was and what she became with disbelief and scorn. Time has fulfilled its traditional function, that of destroyer.

All this from Albee, whose work once seemed to have succumbed to terminal pretension, and from America, a nation whose credo is that decay and death are optional. I have not seen a harder, harsher, larger, more humane play in ages.

NEW MUSIC: Hilary Finch on a major Schnittke premiere

SIX British or world premieres of Alfred Schnittke's music are currently being unveiled in London as part of a sixtieth birthday celebration. They give some indication of the composer's frenetic creative output within the past five years, before a fourth stroke grounded him once more. He has been in hospital since May, unable as yet to speak or write; but in February he had already completed his Eighth Symphony.

Commissioned by the Stockholm Concert Hall Foundation, which has built up a close relationship with the composer ever since its pioneering Schnittke Festival in 1989, the new symphony has just been given its world premiere by the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and Gennady Rozhdestvensky, to whom it was dedicated.

It was Rozhdestvensky who jotted the bill for Schnittke's First Symphony to be shunted out to Gorki for its premiere in 1974, when the work had been banned in Moscow. Then he had to contend with a physically tumultuous Tower of Babel of a work, for which the famous tag "polystylism" was something of an understatement. Now, in stark contrast,

Art and soul of a master

RSPO/ Rozhdestvensky Concert Hall, Stockholm

Rozhdestvensky was faced with a view from above: vast flatlands of austere, slow moving music, its pacing precarious, its moods elusive, its apparent simplicity masking many passages of technical and linguistic complexity.

For the listener, the Eighth Symphony is a natural and often deeply moving successor to the newly reflective Sixth (premiered in London on Sunday) and Seventh (premiered in New York in February). There is a similarly economic use of large orchestral forces (which this time include celeste, piano and harpsichord),

and a similar apparent obedience to the spirit of Bruckner in the solemn resonance of the brass. (The Seventh, significantly, was originally scored for organ and strings).

It is as if the Germanic and Russian souls in Schnittke have at last fused in a shared language: within a singing voice which seems uniquely Slavonic, homage is paid to Mahler, too. The elegiac string writing of the Sixth Symphony's slow movement now becomes an extensive centrepiece in which an aching melody is sung by a single line of violins, transmuting in a gentle fine and clarinet duet, repeatedly sinking down into dark chord clusters before being suspended in a calm sweetness of major triads.

The first movement had introduced this new gentleness in a lean barcarolle-like theme, introduced by horns and varied 22 times as a passacaglia; the second and fourth movements act as counterbalances in their characteristically contrasting language of short-lived moods and brisk, fragmented figures. Where the Seventh Symphony had ended with the briefest and darkest of dirges in waltz time, the Eighth all but dematerialises.

Part of the Great Orchestras of the World series at the BARBICAN CENTRE

Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra


Lorin Maazel

Sunday 20 November 8pm
Mahler Symphony No.9 in D major

Monday 21 November 8pm
Brahms Symphony No.8 in C minor

£20 - £10 Tel 0171-638 8891

Want a Ben Hur of a pension?

Talk to Prudence.  Phone 0800 000 000.

PRUDENTIAL

LONDON

SCHITTKE CELEBRATIONS The new test to mark the composer's 50th birthday ends this evening with a new special chamber concert. He will have opened the programme with Piano Sonata No 2 and Rostropovich then performs the Cello Sonata written for him, they are both joined by violinist Mark Lubatky for a Piano Trio. Barlow, St. Paul, 7.30pm. (0171-638 6881) Tickets, 7.50pm.

RICHARD GOODE The excellent "Complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas" cycle moves into a second series. No 1, in D, Op 10 No 3, in E flat, Op 10 No 3, in G, Op 10 No 3, in C, Op 10 No 100. Goode takes the series to Sheffield (Chickens) on Saturday. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 0171-638 8800. Tonight, 7.45pm. (0171-638 8800)

RACING DEMON David Hare's compulsive drama of the Anglican Church returns for the second half of its brief season. Richard Eyre directs, with Oliver Ford Davies. National (Owl), South Bank, SE1 0171-638 8800. Tonight, 7.45pm. (0171-638 8800)

CONVENTRY Richard Alston's new small company, formed to play the gap left by London's major dance troupes, makes its debut this week with a programme of four works. Labyrinth, set to Benjamin Britten's

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kate Anderson

musical, and Movements From Rostropovich, starting his extraordinary Derzhavsky Singing, were first performed by LCO in Aldeburgh earlier this year. Alston's new works, any Shadow, Resent, with music by Simon Hat, and something in the City. Goode takes a romp to music by the band Man Jumping. Arts Centre, University of Warwick. Tonight, 7.30pm. (0171-638 8800) Tickets, 7.50pm.

CARDIFF Grant Llewellyn conducts the BBC National Orchestra of Wales tonight for the premiere of Charles Harrison's Symphony No 7. Goode takes a romp to music by the band Man Jumping. Arts Centre, University of Warwick. Tonight, 7.30pm. (0171-638 8800) Tickets, 7.50pm.

MANCHESTER Music director Kent Nagano conducts tonight's Hallé Orchestra concert with a programme of Mendelssohn's String Symphony No 10 and his magical Symphony No 6. He takes the orchestra to St George's, Bradford for another performance on Friday (Brent, Mervin)

BROKEN GLASS Strong performance from Margot Lancaster and Henry Goodman in Arthur Miller's latest. An American Jewish couple in the 1930s, wanting to ignore the Nazi menace. National (Owl), South Bank, SE1 0171-638 8800. Tonight, 7.45pm. (0171-638 8800)

HAMLET Peter Hall directs Stephen Dillane's darkly nuanced Hamlet. Backed by excellent playing from Michael Pennington, Donald Sinden and Alan Dine. Gaiety, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0171-638 8800. Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, male Thurs and Sat, 3pm. (0171-638 8800)

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE Peter Seliger's extremely controversial staging (set in Venice Beach, California) at least has a powerful central performance by the actor, actor Paul Bartel. Barlow, St. Paul, 7.30pm. (0171-638 8800) Tickets, 7.50pm.

MISS JULIE Acclaimed for their production of A Doll's House last winter, Sue Lutton now directs Strindberg's drama of lust and submission. Presented by Kaldbeck. New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 0171-734 0022. Open night, 7.30pm, then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, male Thurs, 4.30pm, male Dec 11. (0171-734 0022)

MOSCOW STATIONS Tom Courtenay's one-man performance as an alcoholic lost in the Moscow Underground. You probably won't see him, more touching about this week. Gaiety, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0171-638 8800. Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, male Thurs and Sat, 3pm. (0171-638 8800)

MY NIGHT WITH REG John Burt Foster, David Bamber, John Dillane among the cast of six in Kevin Elyot's excellent comedy with a dark edge, transferred from the Royal Court. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG The Royal Court's latest production, a comedy about a family of Jewish immigrants in New York. Three sisters

A community carves its own figureheads

A sycamore tree cut down on Hampstead Heath has helped to give an elderly warship a new image from the past. Alan Copps reports

When was the last time someone sat on a board ship on the Thames and carved a figurehead? The answer, perhaps surprisingly, is last month. The finishing touches were being applied to two figureheads and a number of other marine sculptures the day before they were unveiled aboard HMS President, a former naval vessel permanently moored beside London's Blackfriars Bridge.

These exhibits, which it is hoped will eventually form part of a permanent floating gallery, were the result of a summer-long Public Art Workshop, led by Liz Leyh, a pioneer in the field of community art, whose best-known work in this country is the line of concrete cows that announces to rail passengers their arrival in Milton Keynes.

Public art is a peculiar field: for most artists, creation is a distinctly private act, often rooted in personal experience. Few are very articulate about it, especially during the process. Leyh, however, is the antithesis of the airy-fairy, precious artist. She has a gift for explaining her work in a smoky, husky voice that carries authority without pretension. She is a natural teacher.

The co-operative efforts in which she led seven young artists and about 100 occasional volunteers between July and October produced two mermaids, one in mahogany and copper relief, one in paper and mixed media; two bronze ships' bells; a carved dragon; another marine relief and an impressive model of glass wings that is part of a design for a new entrance to the ship.

But the centre of attention must be the massive figureheads. They were carved from the same tree, a sycamore felled on Hampstead Heath as part of



Liz Leyh (far left) helps to put the finishing touches to the Green Man

her full figure attracted the attention of a passing tug and she was quickly rescued. She is green, too, in the most surprising way: instead of facial features, her head blooms into a cabbage. The workshop was set up by the educational charity Inter-Art, which now occupies HMS President. Ed Berman, the charity's director, commissioned the works to decorate the public areas of the ship, increasingly used for corporate events and private parties that provide valuable income for the charity. He believes the success of the workshop will help move forward plans to open a gallery and bring more of the public aboard.

For Leyh, born in New York State, long-time resident of Britain and Israel and now living in New Orleans, the work this summer below the waterline in what used to be the magazine room of an old warship was an unusual

experience. "When you work in a community people contribute their labour, but they don't think of themselves as artists. It was so exciting working with young artists, striking ideas off one another. I thought at first I would be teaching by day and carving by night, but the work became a real collaboration because of the people who came to learn."

The volunteers ranged from students to actors and included Brian Towler, the chief joiner in charge of restoration at St Paul's Cathedral. "He's been a wood craftsman all his life, but always in straight lines," Leyh says. "He'd never carved a finger before, but was here every Saturday helping out. The hours that have been put in here have been extraordinary."

Such was the enthusiasm for the project that she has been invited back to lead a workshop next year.

People give their labour but don't think they are artists

The image of a man fused with a tree runs through Western culture from Roman art to the work of Michelangelo. A large and surprisingly pagan example can be found on the west front of St Paul's Cathedral. The figurehead's features are those of a friend of Leyh's from New Orleans, his hair and beard are of green leaves - symbolising nature - and his torso sprouts from gold leaves, symbolising civilisation. His partner looms powerfully into the ship's former gun room, now a bar. Her clothes are reminiscent of perhaps the most famous figurehead of all, that of the Cutty Sark: she wears the same almost indecently short shift that gave that clipper its name, but is more buxom than the Greenwich figurehead. This was a useful feature when she was thrown overboard by vandals during the early part of the carving -

RADIO: Peter Barnard tells the fortunes of the whinging National Lottery callers to Nick Ross

Shortly before 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning a 77-year-old woman picked up a telephone just in time to prevent me jumping off a tall building. She dialled neither the Samaritans nor the fire brigade. She dialled Nick Ross and said something cheerful.

What she said about the previous 29 callers to Radio 4's Call Nick Ross was that she had "never heard such a bunch of whingers" in her life. My thought exactly. She added that she had bought a ticket for the National Lottery and "perfectly expected to win".

Until this call came in I was sinking into a sofa which served as a perfect metaphor for the slough of despond. The subject of the lottery had brought to the programme a quite dispiriting array of kill-joy and spoilsports, a motley crew whose whimpering pessimism crushed hope and wiped smiles off faces.

Time to bar humbug

There were people who thought the lottery would turn us into a nation of obsessive gamblers. There were people who thought charities were headed for extinction just because 5p in the pound of lottery money will go to charities, thus blunting our desire to give to charities via any other route. The word "obscene" was used at least once.

It is widely believed that Radio 4 represents, indeed is, the voice of middle England (interestingly, not one of Tuesday's calls came from Scotland, Wales or Ulster). Audience profiles suggest that there is some truth in this, but that is not necessarily the same as saying that callers to Ross represent a cross-section of middle England.

Ross runs the most civilised phone-in on radio, but as a barometer of public opinion the programme is hopelessly. At least, I hope it is. By the time Ross went on the air on Tuesday more than seven million lottery tickets had been sold, which means that, at 5p in the pound, charities had already benefited to the tune of £350,000.

Yet, while several of Ross's callers said people would stop giving to charities, others said not enough of the lottery money was going to charity, and Majorie Wallace of the mental health charity SANE called to say she was worried about taking money from such a source, but that she would probably accept it anyway.

Dear, oh dear. The only possible conclusion to reach from seven million tickets sold in 24 hours and 27 out of 30 callers to Ross being anti-lottery is that people who phone radio programmes are a breed apart, that they are residents of the

United Phonedom, a tiny principality having no connection with the adjacent nation.

Much like Monte Carlo or Andorra, the United Phonedom is not a place you would want to visit, except very briefly and with your ears muffled against the intrusion of local wisdom.

The National Lottery is the one great idea to emanate from this completely odd Government, the one bit of excitement to leech through the dead grey walls of Whitehall, the single exclamation mark in an administration of full stops, semi-colons and parentheses.

I know this to be true, because most of the people ringing up Ross think the opposite, save one old lady with her head screwed on the right way up.

God bless you, madam, and I hope you win the jackpot on Saturday.

Nick Ross: listening to the voice of middle England

phone-in on radio, but as a barometer of public opinion the programme is hopelessly. At least, I hope it is. By the time Ross went on the air on Tuesday more than seven million lottery tickets had been sold, which means that, at 5p in the pound, charities had already benefited to the tune of £350,000.

Yet, while several of Ross's callers said people would stop giving to charities, others said not enough of the lottery money was going to charity, and Majorie Wallace of the mental health charity SANE called to say she was worried about taking money from such a source, but that she would probably accept it anyway.

Dear, oh dear. The only possible conclusion to reach from seven million tickets sold in 24 hours and 27 out of 30 callers to Ross being anti-lottery is that people who phone radio programmes are a breed apart, that they are residents of the

United Phonedom, a tiny principality having no connection with the adjacent nation.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

NEW GRAFTON GALLERY
49 Church Road, Barnes SW13
081-748 8850
RICHARD PILELEY
Until 3 December

W H PATTERSON, 19 Abchurch Lane, EC4N 3AH, London. Paintings by Peter Rufford until 26th November. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm. Sat 10am-5pm. Tel: 0171 638 4119

CIRCUSES

BILLY BARTON, Richmond, last 4 days. Only London venue. Central Heald Big Top. Tel: 0181 891 4119

CONCERTS

ROYAL ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

OPERA & BALLET

COLLEUM, 0171 638 8800 (info). **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**, 0171 730 0600. **THE ROYAL OPERA**, 0171 730 0600. **ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**, 0171 4000. For Box Office & Tickets. Tel: 0171 730 0600

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

ALBERT HALL

ALBERT HALL, SW7 012. **AROUND THE WORLD**. A SPECTACULAR CHORUS OF MUSIC FROM VIOLIN TO TROMBONE. WEISSBERG, SPECIAL GUEST STAR ELAINE PAGE. Tickets £12-25. Tel: 0171 638 4119

From Inverness to Plymouth, from Barbara Windsor to Wayne Sleep: *The Times Theatre Club's Christmas show list*

The Indispensable Panto Guide

WEST END
 Barbican (071-638 8891)
 Royal Shakespeare Company:
A Christmas Carol
 November 28-January 4
 Bloomsbury Theatre (071-388 8822)
Soapy's Wild West Show
 December 19-31
 Cambridge Theatre (071-494 5080)
Peter Pan - The British Musical
 December 13-January 21
 Coadwance Theatre (071-242 7040)
Maskerade
 December 1-January 14
 Cyllemann (071-632 5500)
 Birmingham Royal Ballet: *The Nutcracker*
 December 18-January 14
 Festival Hall (071-928 8800)
 English National Ballet:
The Nutcracker
 December 21-January 14
 Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith
 (081-741 2311)
The Little Match Girl
 December 9-January 21
 Menzies Theatre (071-236 2211)
Treasure Island
 November 29-January 14
 National Theatre (071-225 2252)
The Wind in the Willows
 December 9-January 14
 Royal Opera House (071-304 4000)
 Royal Ballet: *Cinderella and The Sleeping Beauty*
 December 23-January 14
 Sadler's Wells (071-278 8916)
Babes in the Wood
 December 15-January 22
 Roy Hudd, Keith Barron
 Theatre Royal, Stratford East
 (081-534 0310)
Sleeping Beauty
 December 3-January 28
 Unicorn Theatre (071-636 2132)
Aladdin
 November 26-January 22
 Young Vic Theatre (071-928 6363)
Grimm Tales
 November 23-January 21

BATTERSEA
 BAC (071-223 2223)
Peter Pan
 December 6-January 15
 Grace Theatre at the Latchmere
 (071-225 2620)
Under the Sun and the Moon
 January 4-January 28
 BOREHAMWOOD
 The Venue (081-291 8655)
Aladdin
 December 22-December 24
 BRENTFORD
 Waterman's Arts Centre (081-586 1170)
Aladdin
 December 1-January 7
 BROMLEY
 Churchhill Theatre (081-460 6677)
Babes in the Wood
 December 9-January 14
 CARSHALTON
 Charles Crier Studio (081-770 4950)
Hansel and Gretel
 December 8-January 3
 CROYDON
 Ashcroft Theatre (081-668 9291)
Aladdin
 December 9-January 15
 EDMONTON
 Midfield Theatre (081-907 6680)
Cinderella
 December 9-January 7
 HACKNEY
 Empire (081-985 2424)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 7-January 14
 HAYES
 Beck Theatre (081-561 3371)
Beauty and the Beast
 December 14-January 15
 HDUNSWLOW
 Paul Robeson Theatre (081-571 6969)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 13-January 7
 ILFORD
 Kenneth More (081-553 4466)
Aladdin
 December 15-February 4
 LEWISHAM
 Lewisham Theatre (081-490 0002)
Aladdin
 December 19-January 15
 JEREMY BEADIE
 RICHMOND
 Richmond Theatre (081-940 0088)
Peter Pan
 December 16-January 28
 Leslie Grantham, Una Stubbs
 WIMBLEDON
 Polka Theatre For Children (081-543 4888)
The Snow Queen
 December 20-January 6
 Wimbledon Theatre (081-540 0342)
Cinderella
 December 16-January 29
 Rolf Harris, Ian Bonham

ALDERSHOT
 West End Centre (0252 330040)
 Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 19-30
 ASHTON UNDER LYNE
 Tameside Hippodrome (041-308 3223)
Cinderella
 December 12-January 15
 BAGNDR
 Watermill Theatre (0635 46044)
The Secret Garden
 December 9-January 13
 BARNLEY
 Civic Theatre (0226 246734)
Dick Whittington
 December 17-January 7
 BARNSTAPLE
 Queens Theatre (0271 24242)
Aladdin
 December 23-January 7
 BARROW IN FURNESS
 Forum 28 (0229 820000)
Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp
 December 27-30

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
 THIS SUNDAY at 3.45pm
CHERKASSKY
 plays
 SEHUMANN, HANDEL,
 BARTOK, CHOPIN,
 RUBINSTEIN & LISZT
 612, 69, 56
 BOX 0171-928 8800

BASINGSTOKE
 The Arvil (0256 844244)
Cinderella
 December 2-January 21
 Barbara Windsor, Gordon Kaye
 BATH
 Theatre Royal (0225 448844)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 15-January 28
 Lionel Blair, Britt Ekland
 BERWICK UPON TWEED
 The Maltings (0289 330999)
Sleigh Rider
 December 16-31
 BEXHILL
 De La Warr Pavilion (0424 212022)
Aladdin
 December 17-31
 BILLINGHAM
 Forum (0642 552663)
Aladdin
 December 15-January 14
 BIRMINGHAM
 Alexandra Theatre (021 633 3325)
Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story
 December 21-January 14
 Hippodrome (021 622 7486)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 22-February 25
 Sue Pollard
 Repertory Theatre (021 236 4455)
Peter Pan
 December 6-January 28
 BLACKBURN
 King George's Hall (0254 582822)
Aladdin
 December 27-January 15
 BLACKPOOL
 Grand Theatre (0225 283272)
Peter Pan
 December 23-January 14
 BOGNOR REGIS
 Regis Centre (0243 865551)
Puss in Boots
 December 15-January 7
 BOLTON
 Deagon (0204 520661)
Moggi's Jungle
 December 2-January 14
 BOURNEMOUTH
 Pavilions Theatre (0202 297297)
Robinson Crusoe
 December 23-January 29
 BRACKNELL
 Wilde Theatre (0344 484123)
Max and the Missing Melody
 December 7-January 7
 BRADFORD
 Alhambra (0274 752000)
Aladdin
 December 23-February 12
 BRIGHTON
 Gardner Arts Centre (0273 685861)
A Christmas Carol
 December 14-January 7
 Theatre Royal (0273 328488)
The Magic World of Aladdin
 December 15-January 7
 BRISTOL
 Hippodrome (0272 294444)
Postman Pat's Happy Christmas Show
 December 26-January 15
 Old Vic (0272 502505)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 2-January 23
 BRADSTAIRS
 Pavilion Theatre (0843 845726)
Aladdin
 December 26-January 2
 BURY ST EDMUNDS
 Theatre Royal (0284 769505)
Mother Goose
 December 9-January 14
 BUXTON
 Opera House (0293 72190)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 15-31
 CAMBERLEY
 Civic Hall (0276 23738)
Dick Whittington
 December 13-31
 CAMBRIDGE
 Corn Exchange (0223 357851)
Cinderella
 December 17-January 14
 Dora Bryan
 CANTERBURY
 Marlboro Theatre (0227 787787)
Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 9-January 8
 Marni Webb
 CARLISLE
 Sands Centre (0228 25222)
Peter Pan
 December 12-23
 CHATHAM
 Central Theatre (0634 408868)
Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 10-January 2
 Midway Arts Centre (0634 408965)
Beauty and the Beast
 December 14-17
 CHELMSFORD
 Civic Theatre (0245 495028)
 FAREHAM
 Cernach Halls (0329 231 942)
Cinderella
 December 19-January 2
 FARNHAM
 Redgrave Theatre (0252 715301)
The Jungle Book
 December 8-January 14
 CLEGG
 Slieve Theatre (0494 774759)
Cinderella
 December 12-December 31
 CHESTERFIELD
 Pomegranate Theatre (0246 329001)
Aladdin and his Magic Lamp
 December 17-January 7
 CHICHESTER
 Festival Theatre (0243 781312)
Peter Pan
 December 16-January 7
 Toyah Wilcox, Frank Finlay
 CHIPPING NORTON
 Chipping Norton Theatre (0603 642354)
Puss in Boots
 December 8-January 14
 CLITHEROE
 Civic Hall Theatre (0772 287796)
Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 19-28
 COLCHESTER
 Mercury Theatre (0206 573948)
The Wizard of Oz
 December 8-January 14
 COVENTRY
 Deagade (0203 550555)
Beauty and the Beast
 December 8-January 21
 Warwick Arts Centre (0203 524824)
The Snow Queen
 December 2-January 7
 CRAWLEY
 The Hawley (0293 553436)
Beauty and the Beast
 December 14-January 8
 Hinge and Bracket
 CREWE
 Lyceum (0270 537333)
The Sleeping Beauty
 December 10-January 8
 DARLINGTON
 Civic Theatre (0252 486555)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 December 10-January 29



Starring Linda Lusardi
 DARTFORD
 The Orchard (0322 220000)
Peter Pan
 December 15-January 21
 Andrew Sachs
 DERBY
 Playhouse (0332 363275)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 10-January 28
 DONCASTER
 Civic Centre (0302 342349)
Cinderella
 December 16-January 7
 DOUGLAS, Isle of Man
 Gaity Theatre (0624 625001)
Aladdin
 December 24-January 7
 DUDLEY
 Northern Arts Centre (0384 250333)
Aladdin
 December 7-10
 EASTBOURNE
 Devonshire Park Theatre (0323 420000)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 December 22-January 15
 EPSOM
 Playhouse (0372 742555)
Beauty and the Beast
 December 10-January 7
 EXETER
 Northern Theatre (0392 54853)
Toad of Toad Hall
 December 13-January 21
 EYE
 Eye Theatre (0379 870519)
Humpy Dumpty
 December 22-January 11
 FALMOUTH
 Arts Centre (0326 212300)
Rumpelstiltskin
 December 16-20
Hansel and Gretel
 January 17-21
 FAREHAM
 Cernach Halls (0329 231 942)
Cinderella
 December 19-January 2
 FARNHAM
 Redgrave Theatre (0252 715301)
The Jungle Book
 December 8-January 14
 CLEGG
 Slieve Theatre (0494 774759)
Cinderella
 December 12-December 31
 CHESTERFIELD
 Pomegranate Theatre (0246 329001)
Aladdin and his Magic Lamp
 December 17-January 7
 CHICHESTER
 Festival Theatre (0243 781312)
Peter Pan
 December 16-January 7
 Toyah Wilcox, Frank Finlay
 CHIPPING NORTON
 Chipping Norton Theatre (0603 642354)
Puss in Boots
 December 8-January 14
 CLITHEROE
 Civic Hall Theatre (0772 287796)
Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 19-28
 COLCHESTER
 Mercury Theatre (0206 573948)
The Wizard of Oz
 December 8-January 14
 COVENTRY
 Deagade (0203 550555)
Beauty and the Beast
 December 8-January 21
 Warwick Arts Centre (0203 524824)
The Snow Queen
 December 2-January 7
 CRAWLEY
 The Hawley (0293 553436)
Beauty and the Beast
 December 14-January 8
 Hinge and Bracket
 CREWE
 Lyceum (0270 537333)
The Sleeping Beauty
 December 10-January 8
 DARLINGTON
 Civic Theatre (0252 486555)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 December 10-January 29

Starring Kate O'Mara
 HODDESDON
 Brotham Civic Hall (0992 41946)
Dick Whittington
 January 1-7
 HORNCHURCH
 Queens Theatre (0708 443333)
Dick Whittington
 December 3-January 2
 HORSHAM
 Arts Centre (0403 268689)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 16-January 7
 HULL
 New Theatre (0482 226653)
Cinderella
 December 17-January 28
 HUNSTANTON
 Princess Theatre (0485 332252)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 Keith Hopkins, Peter Jamieson
 IPSWICH
 Regent Theatre (0473 281480)
Ol' King Cole by Ken Campbell
 January 25 and February 14
 LANCASTER
 Duke's Theatre (0524 66645)
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
 December 2-31
 LEATHERHEAD
 Thorndike Theatre (0372 277677)
Annie
 December 21-January 28
 LEBOS
 City Varieties (0532 430808)
Cinderella
 December 16-January 14
 Civic Theatre (0532 455505)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 December 5-January 1
 Grand Theatre & Opera House
 (0532 459251)
Rabin Hood and Babes in the Wood
 February 20-26
 West Yorkshire Playhouse (0532 459251)
The Snow Queen
 December 9-January 14
 LEICESTER
 The Haymarket (0533 539797)
Calamity Jane
 November 18-January 28
 De Montfort Hall (0533 544444)
Cinderella
 December 19-January 12
 LINCOLN
 Theatre Royal (0522 525555)
Cinderella
 December 16-January 29
 LIVERPOOL
 Empire (051 709 1555)
The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe
 December 20-January 21
 David Essex
 Everyman Theatre (051 709 4776)
Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 7-January 28
 Playhouse (051 709 5563)
A Christmas Carol
 December 7-January 14
 LUTON
 St George's Theatre (0582 21625)
Gargling With Jelly
 December 13-24
 MAIDSTONE
 Hazlitt Theatre (0622 758611)
Cinderella
 December 3-January 7
 MALVERN
 Festival Theatre (0684 892277)
Beauty and the Beast
 December 26-January 7
 MANCHESTER
 Contact Theatre (061 274 4400)
Cinderella
 November 30-January 14
 Library Theatre (061 236 7110)
The Secret Garden

December 2-January 14
 Palace Theatre (061 236 9922)
 Scrooge
 December 10-February 4
 Royal Exchange (061 833 9833)
 Charles's Aunt
 December 9-January 21
 MANSFIELD
 Civic Theatre (0623 663085)
Dick Whittington
 December 12-January 14
 MARGATE
 Tom Thumb Theatre (0843 221791)
Cinderella
 November 20-December 30
 MIDDLESBROUGH
 Little Theatre (0642 815181)
Cinderella
 December 14-January 8
 NEW BRIGHTON
 Floral Pavilion (051 639 4360)
Dick Whittington
 December 26-January 22
 NEWARK
 Palace Theatre (0636 71156)
Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 24-January 1
 NEWBURY
 Cora Exchange (0635 522733)
Beauty and the Beast
 December 13-31
 NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME
 New Victoria Theatre (0782 717962)
The Tinker Boy
 November 30-December 28, Jan. 10-14 & 22-28
 Playhouse (091 230 5151)
The Snow Queen
 December 3-January 7
 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
 Theatre Royal (091 232 3061)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 16-January 21
 Little & Large
 NORTHAMPTON
 Deragale (0604 24811)
Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 10-January 22
 Royal Theatre (0604 32533)
Sleeping Beauty
 December 12-January 21
 NORWICH
 Theatre Royal (0603 630000)
Aladdin
 December 19-January 28
 NOTTINGHAM
 Playhouse (0602 419419)
Cinderella
 December 3-January 28
 Theatre Royal (0602 482626)
Great Expectations
 December 21-February 4
 Brian Glover, Nyree Dawn Porter
 OLDHAM
 Coliseum (061 624 2829)
Sinbad
 December 19-January 21
 OXFORD
 Playhouse (0865 798600)
Aladdin
 December 9-January 14
 PETERBOROUGH
 Key Theatre (0733 52439)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 14-January 21
 PLYMOUTH
 Theatre Royal (0752 267222)
Aladdin
 December 16-February 4
 PODLE
 Arts Centre (0202 685222)
Aladdin
 December 9-January 14
 POTTERS BAR
 Wyllott's Centre (0707 645005)
Pinocchio
 December 20-31
 PRESTON
 Charter Theatre (0772 288858)
Cinderella
 December 9-January 7
 RAMSGATE
 Granville Theatre (0843 591750)
Babes in the Wood
 December 26-January 1
 READING
 Hicogon (0734 591591)
Aladdin

December 12-January 15
 Rula Lenska, Dennis Waterman
 REDDITCH
 Palace Theatre (0527 65203)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 December 16-January 8
 REIDHILL
 The Harlequin (0737 765547)
Cinderella
 December 10-January 8
 WAYNE SLEEP
 RICHMOND, N.YORKS
 Georgian Theatre Royal (0748 623401)
The Barrowers
 December 26-28
 RICKMANSWORTH
 Watersmeet (0923 771542)
The Wind in the Willows
 December 17-31
 ROTHERHAM
 Civic Theatre (0709 823640)
Cinderella
 December 22-January 15
 ST ALBANS
 Alban Arena (0721 44488)
The New Adventures of Peter Pan
 December 15-January 8
 SALISBURY
 Playhouse (0722 3320333)
The Sleeping Beauty
 December 10-January 14
 SCARBOROUGH
 Stephen Joseph Theatre 10 The Round (0723 370544)
The Musical Jigsaw Play
 December 1-January 7
 SCUNTHORPE
 Playwright Theatre (0724 840883)
Aladdin
 December 10-January 7
 SEVENOAKS
 The Stag Theatre (0732 450175)
Alice in Wonderland
 December 21-31
 SHEFFIELD
 Creative Studio (0742 769 922)
The Snow Queen
 December 8-24 & January 5-14
 Lyceum (0742 769 922)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 December 22-January 29
 Marni Caine
 SKEGNESS
 Embassy Centre (0754 768333)
Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood
 December 17-22
 STANNING
 The Mill at Stanning (0734 698000)
Touch & Go
 December 6-January 14
 SOUTHAMPTON
 Mayflower Theatre (0703 229771)
Dick Whittington
 December 15-February 5
 Lesley Joseph, John Neules
 Nuffield Theatre (0703 671771)
Rabin Hood
 December 8-January 14
 SOUTHEAST-ON-SEA
 Cliffs Pavilion (0702 351139)
Dick Whittington
 December 14-January 14
 DUMFRIES
 King's Theatre (0705 828282)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 December 15-January 14
 SOUTHPORT
 Arts Centre (0704 540011)
Sleeping Beauty
 December 27-29
 Southport Theatre (0704 540404)
Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 16-January 15
 Keith Harris & Orville
 STAFFORD
 The Gatehouse (0785 54655)
Aladdin
 December 16-January 7
 STEVENAGE
 Gordon Craig (0438 766866)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 December 19-January 21
 STOCKPORT
 Davenport Theatre (061 483 3801)
Mother Goose
 December 16-January 29
 SUNDERLAND

Empire Theatre (091 514 2517)
Dick Whittington and His Cat
 December 15-January 8
 SWINOOON
 Wyvern Theatre (0793 524481)
Dick Whittington
 December 12-January 14
 TAUNTON
 Brewhouse (0823 283244)
Hansel and Gretel
 January 3-7
 TEWKESBURY
 Roses Theatre (0684 295074)
Cinderella
 December 20-January 7
 TORQUAY
 Princess Theatre (0803 290290)
Dick Whittington
 December 16-January 14
 TUNBRIDGE WELLS
 Assembly Hall (0892 530613)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 16-January 8
 WAKEFIELD
 Theatre Royal & Opera House
 (0924 366556)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 8-January 7
 WARRINGTON
 Parr Hall (0925 634958)
Dick Whittington
 January 6-14
 WATFORD
 Palace Theatre (0923 225671)
The Sleeping Beauty
 December 9-January 14
 WESTON SUPER MARE
 Playhouse Theatre (0934 645544)
Peter Pan
 December 26-January 21
 WYEMOUTH
 Pavilion (0305 783225)
Peter Pan
 December 21-January 8
 WHITLEY BAY
 Playhouse (091 252 3505)
The New Adventures of Pinocchio
 December 12-17
 WINCHESTER
 Theatre Royal (0962 843434)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 9-January 7
 Nicholas Parsons
 WINDSOR
 Theatre Royal (0753 853888)
Mother Goose
 December 16-January 14
 Peter Davison
 WOKING
 New Victoria Theatre (0483 747422)
Gaillards and the Three Bears
 December 16-January 28
 Russ Abbot
 WOLVERHAMPTON
 Grand Theatre (0902 29212)
Cinderella
 December 17-February 5
 WORCESTER
 Swan (0903 27322)
Toad of Toad Hall
 December 2-January 7
 WORTHING
 Counaoughi (0903 235333)
Cinderella
 December 15-January 15
 Pavilion (0903 520500)
Fantastic Mr Fox
 December 16-31
 YEOVIL
 Octagon Theatre (0935 22884)
Babes in the Wood
 December 16-January 8
 YORK
 Grand Opera House (0904 671818)
Aladdin
 December 19-January 21
 Theatre Royal (0904 625668)
Sleeping Beauty
 December 13-January 28

The Princess and the Goblin
 December 9-January 7
 GLASGOW
 Citizens Theatre (041 429 0022)
Beauty and the Beast
 November 29-January 14
 King's Theatre (041 227 5511)
Sleeping Beauty
 December 8-February 4
 Theatre Royal (041 332 9000)
 The Scottish Ballet:
The Nutcracker
 December 6-24
 Tron Theatre (041 552 4267)
Babes in the Wood
 November 21-January 7
 INVERNESS
 Eden Court Theatre (0463 227118)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 December 8-January 7
 KILMARNOCK
 Palace Theatre (0563 23590)
Dick Whittington and his Cat
 November 30-January 14
 KIRKCALDY
 Adam Smith Theatre (0592 269498)
Dick Whittington and his Cat
 December 9-January 21
 MOTHERWELL
 Civic Theatre (06982 267515)
Sinbad
 December 5-January 7
 PERTH
 Perth Theatre (0738 621031)
Sleeping Beauty
 December 16-January 14
 ST ANDREWS
 Sire Theatre (0334 476288)
The Gingerbread Man
 December 8-31
 STIRLING
 MacRobert Arts Centre (0786 461081)
Aladdin
 December 2-January 7

WALES
 ABERDARE
 The Coliseum (0685 881188)
Pinocchio
 December 13-17
 ABERYSTWYTH
 Arts Centre (0770 623232)
Culhwch Ac Olwen (Welsh pantomime)
 December 7-10
Rabin Hood & Babes in the Wood
 January 6-21
 BANGOR
 Theatre Gwynedd (0248 351708)
Culhwch Ac Olwen
 December 13-23
 BLACKHEATH
 Miners Institute (0495 227206)
Merlin
 December 26-30
 CARDIFF
 New Theatre (0222 394844)
Cinderella
 December 23-February 4
 Ronnie Corbett
 COLWYN BA
 Theatre Colwyn (0492 526668)
Sleeping Beauty
 December 17-31
 LLANDUDNO
 North Wales Theatre (0492 579771)
The Hot Ice Show Christmas Spectacular
 December 22-January 8
 MOLD
 Theatre Cwylw (0352 755114)
The Wizard of Oz
 December 2-January 21
 NEWTOWN
 Theatre Hafren (0686 625007)
Peter Pan
 December 15-20
 SWANSEA
 Grand Theatre (0792 475715)
Aladdin
 December 16-January 29

N. IRELAND
 BELFAST
 Civic Arts Theatre (0232 34934)
Pinocchio
 December 1-January 21
 Grand Opera House (0232 241919)
Dick Whittington
 December 9-January 21
 Lyric Players Theatre (0232 381081)
The Snowman
 December 1-January 14 (matinees)
 Christmas Eve Can Kill You
 December 7-23 (evenings)
 LONDONDERY
 Rialto (0504 260516)
Jack and the Beanstalk
 December 10-January 28

Frederick ASHTON Celebrated

The Royal Ballet in fine form... proves it can still do Ashton proud!

21.28.30
 NOVEMBER AT 7.30PM

CALL FOR A FREE LEAFLET

BOX OFFICE 071-304 4000

The ROYAL BALLET

Not such simple Simons

John Patten praises two iconoclastic journalists whose lash he has felt

Both of these men are talented, called Simon, and have publishers who think that their daily ephemerata in *The Times* are worthy of something more permanent. They have also — on separate occasions — crossed our threshold.

I feel I should declare this, though in doing so I hope that I can escape knee-jerk charges of literary partiality by recalling that I have felt the lash of both of them in their columns. However, I have long thought that it is time that the whole business of book reviewing was brought under control. Being a Conservative, I prefer voluntary self-regulation to a rationalised framework. Can I suggest that Sir Kingsley Amis is approached by the Royal Society of Literature to take charge of the matter from his vantage point at the north-eastern end of the Garrick Club's bar?

Of course, there will have to be sub-committees under Sir Kingsley, to regulate mutual book-puffing not only by novelists but also by political writers, in the interests of a level literary killing field. This might well be delegated to Alan Watkins, the doyen of the profession, and like Sir Kingsley, usefully both Welsh and a member of the Garrick Club. His task would not be so onerous as that of the controller of novels, for I suspect that — taking their cue from those of us that they observe — political writers are quite brisk in their judgements of each other as well as of ministers or MPs. That is what they are paid for.

Here we have, in their different ways, two of the best of the breed. Hoggart, who is a political non-conformist and outsider, chooses the chambers of both Houses for his arena of activity; Jenkins picks the wider world related to Parliament, but seen through the prism of the Establishment, of which he is a decorative member.

Why have they been published at all? Because they are there, and also because history has shown that there is a profit in it. But, as Jenkins himself writes, work like theirs is in direct line of descent from the tracts and sermons of the 17th- and 18th-century propagandists. In the end such pamphletising efforts often ended up between hard covers, so why not contemporary newspaper columns?

Will they be of any lasting interest? Yes. Surtees, when he was writing of the doings of Mr Jorrocks or of Mr Sponge, was producing serial works which were thought to be dangerous or at least biting satire in Victorian England. Yet they have become important documents for social historians of the 19th century. I think Hoggart's pointed sketches and Jenkins's deliberately awkward essays will, because they are both very good, be invaluable to political historians of the later 20th century.

Take Hoggart first. He is a sort of thinking man's Matthew Parris, and writes beautifully. On a moment of passing embarrassment in the chamber of the House of Commons for Nicholas Soames, for example: "I was sitting immediately above Mr Soames, and was able to study his bald head as it coped with the enormity of his mistake. First his scalp turned pink, then scarlet, vermillion, magenta, and finally the deepest, the richest, the most purple hue I have ever seen upon a human being. It was a wondrous colour and then... it must truly be counted one of nature's miracles. It had vanished within a minute, but like the aurora borealis, or Halley's Comet, it was an unforgettable phenomenon which I shall one day describe to my grandchildren." But he also brilliantly observes the outward signs of the inward political process by which one becomes leader of the Labour Party or a junior minister in a Tory government.

Jenkins, by comparison, has more words allowed to him by *The Times*, and so dives beneath the surface which Hoggart deliberately skims. Jenkins's prose is of a very high order, a prose with which George Orwell would have been pretty happy. Any irritation comes not from the style but because of his speciality in self-consciously standing the world upside-down every time: sometimes he'd serve the cause of political analysis more by looking the world straight in the eye the right way up.

One day he may also be given an escape hatch through which to pop so he can better help to run the mandarin world against which he sets so many of his splendid columnar stage plays. His essay on Lord Franks, striding across the High Street in Oxford and scattering buses this way and that, looking like the original pillar of the Establishment, is masterful. One of the colleges which line that handsome street might indeed shortly snap him up. That, or some other suitable vantage point away from the iron daily discipline of the word processor, would help to give him a greater sense of proportion.

For, as one of the greatest critics of the quango, which he sees as a latter day plague, he might ponder the reality. For what else are those committees of the great ones, which he favours, but simply bigger versions of the little battalions of lesser public servants labouring away on health service trusts or grant maintained school boards that he so deprecates?

On the matter of snapping-up: should anyone pick up either of these volumes? Only if you are not a serial reader of newspapers like most politicians: if you are, you have read them before and very recently. If not, either would be an excellent present to be accumulated by the early Christmas shopper.

John Patten, MP, was Education Secretary, 1992-1994.

HOUSE OF CORRECTION
By Simon Hoggart
Robson, £11.95

AGAINST THE GRAIN
By Simon Jenkins
John Murray, £17.99



In the areas around the Belfast "peacelines" a second generation is now growing up accustomed to an atmosphere of sectarian violence. From *Interface Images* by Frankie Quinn (Belfast Exposed Community Photography Group, 48 King St, Belfast, £5)

The infernal serpents of Ireland

Conor Cruise O'Brien holds what must be a unique place in Irish life and letters. A southern Catholic, of impeccable Republican ancestry, who has pursued a glimmering, if controversial life in the service of his country, he has ended a kind of Ulster Unionist manqué.

Unionists, however, should not imagine that he has embraced their faith wholesale. O'Brien embraces nothing wholesale. His skill is in seeing through a glass darkly. Were he to cut adrift entirely from his Dublin roots — which is not about to happen — and move to Belfast, he would undoubtedly end up a severe and penetrating critic of the northern Protestant tradition.

Criticism, in the proper sense, is in his bones. He goes behind the rhetoric to the innermost demons that drive events. To him, as to Freud, it is the unsaid that speaks most volubly. He analyses not the torrents of words issuing from Irish mouths, but the wellspring, deep within the national psyche, that feeds them.

In this, his latest book, a kind of intellectual companion to his classic *States of Ireland*, published in 1972, he exhibits a continuing pessimism about Irish nationalism and the Irish Catholic Church. The two, he says, are in cahoots, consciously and uncon-

sciously, to wipe out Protestantism and unionism in Ireland and thus to avenge the "Irish Irish" for their centuries of oppression. No one is spared. The current peace process, conducted in the public arena by John Major and Albert Reynolds, is seen by O'Brien as a sham in which the senior partner, with his own, dark agenda, is Gerry Adams of Sinn Féin, aided by John Hume, leader of the SDLP.

But, more to the point, Adams is presented as being himself in thrall to the ancestral voices of the book's title. Ireland's strongest impulses, according to O'Brien, are determined by ghosts: "When constitutional nationalists try to compete with the Provos for the 'Republican' banner" (Albert Reynolds's phrase) they end up dancing to the Provos' tune, as Mr Reynolds has been doing since December 1993. What is important is to realise what gives the Provos their strength: the cult of the dead, which is now an incubus on the living Irish people."

Pearse, the half-English demagogue and mystic, whose ravings, more than any other single factor, led to the 1916 Easter Rising. In a brilliant and sustained critique, amply laced with humour and invective, O'Brien blames Pearse first for twisting Tone's catechism of the Enlightenment, complete with French revolutionary fervour, into a precursor of his own, depraved vision of an Ireland dominated by the Catholic Church and false Gaelic imperatives, constantly demanding the blood sacrifice of his children. He then lambastes the nationalist and Catholic people of Ireland for heeding this "sacral" view of their destiny to the exclusion of all else.

The process, he argues, now solemnised as a "peace process" is

Walter Ellis

ANCESTRAL VOICES
Religion and Nationalism in Ireland

By Conor Cruise O'Brien
Penguin, £19.99 pbk

THE ENEMY WITHIN
The IRA's War Against the British

By Martin Dillon
Doubleday, £16.99

Who the ghosts are is the stuff of ancient argument. O'Brien concentrates on two men: Theobald Wolfe Tone, founder and inspiration of the United Irishmen, who committed suicide in a Dublin jail in 1798, and Patrick Pearse, the half-English demagogue and mystic, whose ravings, more than any other single factor, led to the 1916 Easter Rising.

In a brilliant and sustained critique, amply laced with humour and invective, O'Brien blames Pearse first for twisting Tone's catechism of the Enlightenment, complete with French revolutionary fervour, into a precursor of his own, depraved vision of an Ireland dominated by the Catholic Church and false Gaelic imperatives, constantly demanding the blood sacrifice of his children. He then lambastes the nationalist and Catholic people of Ireland for heeding this "sacral" view of their destiny to the exclusion of all else.

The process, he argues, now solemnised as a "peace process" is moving towards what could be its final cataclysm: civil war. "The men of violence" on the Catholic and nationalist side, instead of being "marginalised" have now become integrated into a pan-Catholic and pan-nationalist consensus, along with the SDLP, the Dublin Government and the Catholic Church. "Things are not better than they were before the IRA ceasefire. They are worse."

Martin Dillon, described by O'Brien as "the greatest living authority on Irish terrorism... our Virgil to that Inferno in all the varieties of its torments", has meanwhile come up with an admirable successor to his several volumes on loyalist paramilitary violence. Having recounted the many horrors of the IRA, he then quotes a "senior Provisional" as "laughing" at media claims that the Downing Street declaration had marginalised Adams and thrown the Provos into turmoil.

"We knew what we were at. We reminded the Brits of our seriousness when they became casual... we threw a few mortars into Heathrow. It was a classic warning that we should not be dismissed. This is not over until a proper settlement is negotiated." These are the men the British Government is about to do business with.

Maalouf, who was born in Lebanon, had already signalled his loyalty to the Arab story-telling tradition in *Leo the African*, *The First Century After Beatrice and Samarkand*, a synoptic on the life of Omar Khayyam and the textual history of the *Rubaiyat*. In *The Rock of Tanios* his understated and clinically structured technique produces a novel which asks all the questions pertinent to the post-colonial condition: "Who can ever tell because of what look, what word, what sneer, a man suddenly finds himself an outsider among his own people?", but does so with a laudable readability that renders the didactic experience painless.

Contemplating a rock on the Mediterranean coast which bears the name of a man, the narrator slides into an imagined history of Tanios, son of Gerios, major domo in the palace of a sheikh whose libidinous excesses are infamous and whose fascination with Gerios's wife, the most beautiful woman in the village, casts doubt over the identity of Tanios's father.

Fair is foul for Balkan tyranny

Charlotte Moore

THE CONCERT
By Ismail Kadare
Harvill, £15.99

A lemon tree is delivered on the first page of this complex and compelling novel. It sits, largely ignored, on a balcony, surrounded by rubbish, "devoting itself to its own *raison d'être*". On the last page it is found to have produced a small lemon. In the interim, Mao has died; China has severed its alliance with Albania; Victor Hila, ostracised for treading on the foot of a Chinese visitor, has been blinded in an industrial "accident"; Skender Bermet's novel has died within him, starved of oxygen by the inhumanity of the Chinese; and the young, attractive Linda has begun an affair with Skender's rival.

Meanwhile, the lemon tree goes about its business of producing fruit. Does its fragility and loneliness make it an object of pity, or does its indifferent resilience cause all the novel's other events, local and international, to dwindle into insignificance? Ismail Kadare explores this duality in his treatment of the constant to-ing and fro-ing between mighty China and Albania, its tiny toe-hold in the West.

Aeroplanes, birds, meteors and spy satellites cross and recross the vast silent spaces, but all these put together were as nothing compared with the infinite space of the sky. Kadare is masterful in his ability to convey to us the desolation of polar wastes, of deserts, of the featureless paddy fields worked by Chinese poets and novelists, now brainwashed by the atrocities of the Cultural Revolution into a condition of mental featurelessness that matches their landscape.

Politics and politicians shrink to the size of dust motes against such a backdrop. And yet the aeroplanes travelling through the emptiness carry documents that bring security or starvation for millions. Kadare returns again and again to the liquidation of Lin Biao, former member of Mao's Politburo, whose plane came down in flames in the middle of the Mongolian desert. The charred body strapped to the wreckage finds its counterpart in the figure of the decaying Mao himself, lurking in an underground cave, talking to the rocks like a malignant hermit, hatching vain empires in the twilight.

Their story is linked, through the imagination of the writer Skender Bermet (a self-portrait) to the story of Macbeth. Lin Biao becomes a not-so-innocent Duncan, and Mao's wife Jiang Qing is a monstrous Lady Macbeth, determined to unsex not only herself but all women in memory of an ancient insult.

"The writer," Kadare asserts, "is the natural enemy of dictatorship." Shakespeare is acknowledged as a subversive force in Mao's China and in Hoxha's Albania. It is beautifully fitting that the intricacies of unimagined ambition should be exposed by a Shakespearean parallel. *The Concert* shows us a system in which truth has become so equivocal that when senile Aunt Hasive confuses past and present, the living and the dead — "there have never been any Chinese here. You must have dreamt it" — her view of reality seems to make as much sense as any other.

Maalouf, who was born in Lebanon, had already signalled his loyalty to the Arab story-telling tradition in *Leo the African*, *The First Century After Beatrice and Samarkand*, a synoptic on the life of Omar Khayyam and the textual history of the *Rubaiyat*. In *The Rock of Tanios* his understated and clinically structured technique produces a novel which asks all the questions pertinent to the post-colonial condition: "Who can ever tell because of what look, what word, what sneer, a man suddenly finds himself an outsider among his own people?", but does so with a laudable readability that renders the didactic experience painless.

Contemplating a rock on the Mediterranean coast which bears the name of a man, the narrator slides into an imagined history of Tanios, son of Gerios, major domo in the palace of a sheikh whose libidinous excesses are infamous and whose fascination with Gerios's wife, the most beautiful woman in the village, casts doubt over the identity of Tanios's father.

Maalouf, who was born in Lebanon, had already signalled his loyalty to the Arab story-telling tradition in *Leo the African*, *The First Century After Beatrice and Samarkand*, a synoptic on the life of Omar Khayyam and the textual history of the *Rubaiyat*. In *The Rock of Tanios* his understated and clinically structured technique produces a novel which asks all the questions pertinent to the post-colonial condition: "Who can ever tell because of what look, what word, what sneer, a man suddenly finds himself an outsider among his own people?", but does so with a laudable readability that renders the didactic experience painless.

Contemplating a rock on the Mediterranean coast which bears the name of a man, the narrator slides into an imagined history of Tanios, son of Gerios, major domo in the palace of a sheikh whose libidinous excesses are infamous and whose fascination with Gerios's wife, the most beautiful woman in the village, casts doubt over the identity of Tanios's father.

When a faux-pas by the village idiot alerts the adolescent Tanios to the uncertainty of his parentage he flees the village to become involved with a neighbouring potentate and enemy to the sheikh. All would be well, and relatively insignificant in the scale of things, were it not for the fact that British and French inter-

Fragments shored against the ruin

Ian Brunskill

THE SILENT ANGEL
By Heinrich Böll
Andre Deutsch, £14.99



Heinrich Böll earns the title of "conscience of the nation"

writer's voice to his involvement in contemporary history, it was a historian's eye that his writing turned on the contemporary world.

But Böll's is a history played out in individual fates and states of mind, not in abstract processes or great events. While other postwar writers embraced the certainties of party politics (Günter Grass) or the radical scepticism of extreme opposition (Hans Magnus Enzensberger), Böll placed his literary reputation at the service of an activism that was above all humanist and moral. In this as in much else, his first novel prepares the ground for the works that followed.

Written between 1949 and 1951, *Der Engel schwing* (*The Silent Angel*) was not published in Germany until 1992. The reasons for the delay are not clear. His English publishers suggest that "no publisher at the time was prepared to take the book on, fearing the true-to-life descriptions of a war-torn city were too harrowing for the German public to

cope with". This is far-fetched. Chapters and episodes were published or broadcast individually at the time. The novel published in its stead in 1951, *Wo warst du, Adam?*, is itself a war novel, while elements of the rejected narrative were incorporated into later works, notably *Und sagte kein einziges Wort*.

In any case, vivid though its portrait of poverty, hunger and desperation undoubtedly

is, *The Silent Angel* is one of the less vehement examples of *Trümmerliteratur*, the post-war plays and novels which picked over the rubble of a devastated Germany. Like so many of Böll's works, this story of a soldier returning to the ruins of what is recognisably the author's native Cologne is in fact an austere evocative love story, in which isolated, intermittently articulate individuals, nei-

ther wholly good nor wholly bad, grope towards some fragile human contact, their bleak existences redeemed by glimmers of decency and grace.

There is little in the way of drama. Episodes are self-contained: here as throughout his subsequent career, Böll reveals himself as at heart a writer of short stories. Characters remain elusive, their motives not always easy to fathom, their encounters fleeting and almost random. Minor figures are more sharply drawn than the main protagonists. In so far as there is an argument it is an oblique and specialised one, to which Böll returned again and again, about the conflict between personal faith and the worldly manifestations of the German Catholic Church.

In short, there are weaknesses enough to explain the original decision not to publish. What justifies the decision more than 40 years later to publish after all is the sympathy with which the novel's spare, limpid prose captures a particular moment of German history, the dusty, doubt-filled limbo between ruin and reconstruction. *The Silent Angel* is a poignant first chapter in Böll's 35-year chronicle of postwar Ger-

Ruling pasha of Paris



Maalouf universal themes

Giles Coren

THE ROCK OF TANIOS
By Amin Maalouf
Quartet, £15

When a faux-pas by the village idiot alerts the adolescent Tanios to the uncertainty of his parentage he flees the village to become involved with a neighbouring potentate and enemy to the sheikh. All would be well, and relatively insignificant in the scale of things, were it not for the fact that British and French inter-

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED.
Poetry, non-fiction, Biography,
Fiction, Young, Children.
AUTHORS WORLD-WIDE INVITED
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2001 WINDMILL RD, LONDON SW17 2JG

Peter Mandler compares two histories of the greatest quango of them all and argues that it would benefit from more investigation

Can the nation trust the National Trust?

GILDING THE ACORN
Behind the Facade of the
National Trust

By Paula Weidger
Simon & Schuster, £17.99

FROM ACORN
TO OAK TREE
The Growth of the National Trust, 1985-1994
By Jennifer Jenkins
and Patrick James
Macmillan, £20

It was once, supposedly, the British way of doing things. Shin central government and State control, and confide the public interest to voluntary organisations. The two great levelling forces of the 20th century — nationalisation and privatisation — changed all that. The "public interest" was redefined; how public services were best administered was reinterpreted. Is it a good thing that the National Trust has remained largely insulated from this national debate? The process of slow, incremental, organic growth of which the Trust is so proud has produced a Frankenstein's monster of a body, pieced together haphazardly and rarely with reference to the public whose interest it is supposed to serve.

The Trust was founded a century ago to hold and protect "beautiful spots and ancient monuments" which the State would not or could not defend itself. Parliament was delighted to grant the Trust statutory powers and privileges, so the Trust became a peculiar kind of quango: self-appointed but with public responsibilities. It was taken over in the 1930s by two

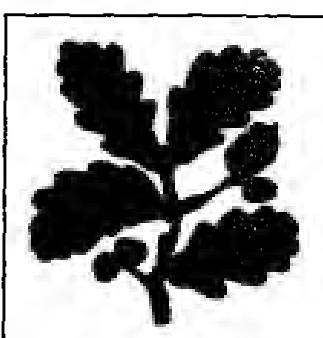
minorities among the landowning class — aesthetes and Liberals — who hoped to use it to salvage country houses and estates.

The collapse of the landed aristocracy and the rise of tourism after 1945 combined to deliver to the Trust land, houses and membership beyond its wildest dreams. By the 1960s, the Trust's landed leadership had come to appear

amateurish, elitist and aesthetically narrow. After an internal inquiry, it kept its leadership intact but professionalised its administration, leading to another quantum leap in membership and confusing its identity even further.

Today the Trust is still a private charity with a self-perpetuating leadership. But it is also a body, specially empowered by statute to defend the public interest, a recipient of huge government grants, the nation's largest private landowner, and (with over two million subscribers) a gigantic membership organisation. It thus presents a ridiculously wide target for criticism, of which Paula Weidger, an American journalist, has taken full advantage in *Gilding the Acorn*.

Far too easily she plays one portion of the Trust's history and responsibility off against another. Sometimes she argues that the Trust is a featherbed for aristocrats preserving their wealth and authority at public expense. At



other points she complains that it is an impersonal bureaucracy which lacks the paternal feeling and rootedness of the old seigneurs. It's too amateurish and too professional. It's also too centralised, but the only specific reform she proposes would create a smaller central board formally cut off from the membership.

And yet *Gilding the Acorn* cuts through the Trust's history and politics like a blast of fresh air. It is

lined with silly little mistakes, but none are to my eye significant. The overall impression is accurate, well-judged and constructive, if necessarily incoherent. The frequent changes of viewpoint — there are chapters on squires, bureaucrats, troublemakers, gardeners, tenant farmers and shepherds — are befuddling but vital. Weidger's breezy style will not please everyone, but it wrenches arresting frankness from startled toffs and plebs alike.

Weidger's is, amazingly, the first full "unofficial" inquiry into the Trust's work. How badly it is needed is evident from the latest official history, commissioned by the Trust for its centenary from its recent past chairman, Dame Jennifer Jenkins, who wrote *From Acorn to Oak Tree* with the assistance of the otherwise anonymous Patrick James.

The book reads as if caught in a time-war of 1950s vintage. Few of the reversals and contradictions

evident to Weidger disturb the stately advance of Jenkins's Whig story-telling. Local difficulties are always resolved happily, thanks to the British genius for voluntary organisations. Chaps are invariably described as "able", homosexuals presented as bachelors, nephews "brought onto" the board by their uncles, reform is achieved by "independent" inquiries made by fellow board members.

Dame Jennifer was supposed to be part of this reform process — the first woman, the first non-landowner since the 1930s to chair the Trust — but she seems to have gone native. "Obviously new people join the staff," Lady Emma Tennant tells Weidger, "but you soon get into our way of thinking and doing things." Dame Jennifer has been succeeded by Lord Chorley, one of the Trust's hereditary elite, and a man who comes out particularly poorly from Weidger's account.

One of Weidger's most insistent complaints is that the professionalisation of the Trust has only thrown up a denser fog of self-serving propaganda. So it is with this official history: what purpose could it serve but publicity? Only six years ago the Trust's chief agent, John Gaze, published another official history, *Figures in a Landscape*. It was woolly, anecdotal and rather rough-hewn, but far more comprehensive and in its way more objective than this glossy new product, clearly aimed at the Christmas coffee table.

Weidger raises a host of questions about the Trust which she can't answer, but which the official histories or internal inquiries can't answer either. Yet as the Trust gets larger, the public will need some reassurance that its long-term interests are being served by this great self-appointed quango. What better way to generate a constructive public debate than to appoint a Royal Commission of Inquiry, such as has been used in the past to chivy into reform those other great self-appointed quangos, Oxford and Cambridge? This, too, is a British way of doing things.

Chairman of chaos

History will always be grateful that Chairman Mao was observed from 1954 to his death in 1976 by a perceptive, cultured doctor who survived every purge to write this account of what he saw. It is hard to recommend his book highly enough: even comparisons with Suetonius or Tacitus really do not capture the intimacy, sensitivity and humanity of the writing. There have been many books about the Great Helmsman, but *The Private Life of Chairman Mao* is the first that catches his personality, his style, the way he talked and the lens through which he saw the world. As one reads on, it becomes clear that this is also the best political life of Mao yet written.

Zhisui Li was a Western-educated doctor practising in Australia when the Communists triumphed in 1949; he returned. In 1954, he was

Simon Sebag Montefiore

THE PRIVATE LIFE
OF CHAIRMAN MAO

By Zhisui Li

Chatto & Windus, £20

appointed Mao's private doctor. At first, despite his background (his grandfather had been the Emperor's doctor), he worships the Chairman. But as he observes the callous tyranny of Mao, his "vile personal habits, the privileged luxury of the cadres and the terror in which they all lived, he comes to despise his master. But he cannot escape until Mao dies 22 years later.

Indeed, the book begins with that death. Dr Li is instructed to embalm his master, but he has no idea how to go about it. He injects gallons of formaldehyde, the Chairman's whole body expands alarmingly. Panic ensues. Sinister generals accuse the doctor of poisoning Mao. The Gang of Four lurks in the shadows. This is a scene of macabre farce: not only does the Emperor have no clothes, but he is also swollen to the size of a balloon.

The essence of the book is the character of Mao himself: he ruled China from bed, clad in open dressing gowns, reading, writing, talking, never apparently going near an office. What struck me was not so much his peasant habits — not brushing his teeth, for example — but the terrifying restlessness of his political mind that was constantly (even in his last years) attacking his own party leadership, creating new witchhunts, going on almost monthly tours to whip up support from the provinces against the centre.



Radical kitsch: commissioned by Levi's jeans from Jean-Paul Goude for an abortive advertising campaign, this montage of Mao and Khrushchev, the Soviet premier, appeared in 1974. From *Novas: 1965-1975* (Pavilion, £15.99 pbk)

To him, the suffering his shenanigans caused to millions of victims was irrelevant.

Gradually, Li realised that virtually the entire Politburo was suffering from illnesses that were the psychological result of endless bureaucratic stress. Mao himself was ill when he was politically down — and impotent too. His potency returned with political triumphs. Mao's sexual antics are described clinically. Li

treats Mao's teenage concubines for venereal diseases, including genital herpes, but the Chairman himself refuses to be treated at all.

Li met everybody from Khrushchev to Nixon, and witnessed Mao's cruel games that led to the brilliantly described Cultural Revolution. There is Jiang Qing, Mao's paranoid neurotic wife; the mentally unstable Lin Biao, Mao's doomed suc-

cessor; that urbane sycophant Premier Chou En-lai; the evil, schizophrenic secret policeman Kang Sheng and that shrewd, pragmatic diminutive, Deng Xiaoping, who is purged three times but always returns. One of the saddest moments is when Li sees a crowd of thugs beating China's grey-haired head of state, Liu Shaoqi, on Mao's bidding, not far from Mao's home. Li watches, then hurries away.

Always, Li's character steps lightly through this maze of murder and intrigue, frankly seeing right and wrong but knowing that his only real missions are to keep Mao alive as long as possible — and to survive to protect his family. Li's portrait of this shuffling giant, reading ancient Chinese history and constantly dreaming up chaos, ranks as one of the most vivid descriptions of a dictator ever written.

are never really shown Sils being particularly kind — is inadequate as an epiphany, and unworthy of the ironic Proustianism (mashed brains) with which Berie begins her journey into memory.

This novel, then, falls between the affecting and the cute. Moore continues to write in the first person — tricky, if aspiring to be more than Me-generation confessionals, though not, as Scott Fitzgerald demonstrated, incompatible with the greatest American fiction. The concluding image of perfection as self-loss, singing in a choir, suggests a conscious yearning for just what is missing in her fables. One hopes the lively and intelligent Moore succeeds, as Berie does not, in "splitting" her voice. Those who enjoy witty self-pity will love this book, but I for one hope the kooky crumbles.

Kooky heroine of a self-pitying generation

Amanda Craig

WHO WILL RUN
THE FROG
HOSPITAL?

By Lorrie Moore
Faber, £14.99

their fairytale setting they know that frogs cannot be saved, let alone turned into princes. In Paris, Berie tells a story about a girl who refuses to restore an enchanted prince to form because "at this point in my life I'm actually more interested in a talking frog", a joke which beautifully under-

middle-class family, Sils, appropriately, is from a poor and problematic background. Already initiated into sex, she becomes pregnant by her boyfriend. In order to pay for her friend's abortion, Berie (like Riva in Moore's excellent debut, *Self Help*) steals from the cash register. As punishment, she is sent away from the small town where she and Sils craved adventure, "anticipation playing in the heart like an orchestra tuning and warming, the notes unwed and fabulous and crazed."

The odd title comes from Sils's pairing of two little girls with wounded frogs: even in

Time to drop the pilot

Radek Sikorski

THE NAKED
PRESIDENT
A Political Life
of Lech Walesa

By Roger Boyes
Secker & Warburg, £20



Walesa amuses the Queen

THE rise and fall of Lech Walesa — from peasant and worker revolutionary, to Nobel prizewinner and President of Poland, to today's lonely figure, isolated in the presidential palace — is the stuff of Shakespearean drama. It would be hard to make the tale less than mesmerising, and Roger Boyes does not disappoint. This is the first thorough investigation of a man whose face will forever be associated with the victory over communism, and its results are revealing: almost everyone who has ever been a Walesa supporter now denounces him.

In the Walesa's home village in Popowo in Central Poland, the family had the reputation of being improvident and fickle. At the Lenin shipyard, where Walesa jumped simultaneously onto an electric forklift cart and the world scene by leading the 1980 strike which launched Solidarity, he is still resented for the arbitrary manner in which he took over the free trade union movement.

The left-wing intellectuals who advised him in the 1980s denounce him as a threat to democracy. The right-wing politicians who helped him to win the presidency call him a traitor to their cause, and muster darkly about secret police files from the 1970s which suggest that Walesa was briefly a police informer and allegedly explain his soft spot for Communist security officers. At each stage of his career, Walesa has had to reinvent himself, dropping his earlier persona, principles and friends. At the top of the ladder now, having kicked away every step on which he had climbed, Walesa is now surrounded with yes-men.

He is still capable of flashes of genius. Walesa's speech at the anniversary celebrations for the Warsaw uprising earlier this year was the best

political speech made in Poland since independence was regained in 1989. His old instinct — as well as political self-interest — is probably also right in arguing for a presidential system of government. He could have done more damage had he adopted populist economics and turned against market reform. (In fact, the chairman of the central bank, Walesa's nominee, is an anchor of monetary responsibility.)

BUT, on the whole, this has been a disappointing presidency, and the fault is largely Walesa's own. Instead of forging his victorious coalition into a Polish Republican Party which could rule Poland for a generation, he has tried to divide and rule, making himself hostage to no one but gaining nobody's allegiance.

Boyes is right in ascribing Walesa's failure at institutional politics to the very qualities that made him such an effective revolutionary: unpredictability, secretiveness, the talent for a sudden stunt, a penchant for bluff. Like Mikhail Gorbachev, he has proven a genius of destruction. When it came to the painstaking job of building institutions and nurturing democracy, both men proved a failure.

I would have liked Boyes to have done even more original investigating. If it is possible to trawl through Stella Rimington's accounts for a few hundred pounds, it should be possible to establish whether Walesa tells the truth in denying having bank accounts in London. He could have followed the trail of corruption leading to Walesa's presidential palace. In one case, Mr Mieczyslaw Wachowski, Walesa's chauffeur turned minister of state was forced to return a bribe of several thousand dollars.

But the advantage of writing about history that is still in the making is that subsequent editions can make the story even better in the light of new developments. In the case of *The Naked President*, each future edition promises to be funnier than the last. Boyes could, for example, describe the bizarre incident of a fortnight ago when Walesa, at a lunch during military exercises, dressed in a battlefield uniform, required assembled generals to have a vote on whether or not they liked the minister of defence, a one-time Walesa cromy whom the President, as usual, no longer trusts. Boyes is to be congratulated on a bold undertaking, superbly told.

Radek Sikorski was Poland's deputy defence minister from February to June 1992 in the Olczewski government under President Lech Walesa.

END A GOOD JOB IN FIVE MINUTES

If you're looking for a good job in teaching, there's simply only one place to look. The Times Educational Supplement. In The TES you'll often find over 150 pages of the best teaching jobs around. That's over 3,000 jobs, ranging from first jobs for those just starting out on their career to the very top posts.

The TES is out every Friday. Take a minute to buy it, and you'll find a good job in next to no time.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

TES

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE IT

FOCUS

CHESTER

Chester is a city sensitive to its rich past while also taking on the challenges of the future. **Ronald Faux reports**

Heritage with a hard edge

Within its walls, Chester contains 2,000 years of British history, not sterilised in a museum but woven into the everyday fabric of the city. Chester called an early halt to the Sixties determination to exchange fine architecture for the car-bomb and mediocrity that scarred so many northern towns and city centres. The city fathers of the time wisely invested a one-penny rate in a conservation fund, acquiring key sites and ensuring that vulnerable buildings were kept in good order.

"They called a halt to the bulldozers early on, realising that the ambience and atmosphere of Chester were a foundation for the future. The correctness of that decision is all around us," Paul Durham, chief executive of Chester city council, says.

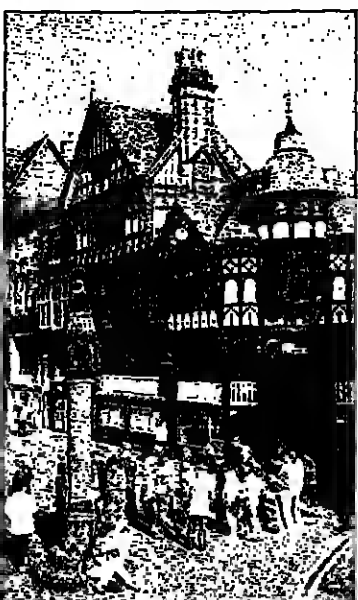
The city centre is held intact: land values and rents in Chester are among the highest in the North West, second only to Manchester. History brings five million visitors every year to the city to wander around the walls and the world-famous Rows, the delightful galleries of streets serving tiers of shops that radiate from the town cross, where from Easter to September visitors are greeted by the town crier.

Ambience and atmosphere attract new industry to the business park and industrial estate on the edge of the city: last year's influx was valued at more than £150 million. More than 3,000 people work in the financial services sector alone, and the city is pressing hard through partnerships between local authority and local industry to promote Chester as a destination for commercial investment.

Yet this image of an ancient, affluent and bustling city conceals a few unpleasant facts which the council has to address. Recession, cuts at British Aerospace, and even the closure years ago of Shotton steel works have left pockets of severe deprivation in the city. A further 2,000 jobs may be lost in local manufacturing and aerospace industries in the immediate future. But while areas in the Wirral and on Merseyside retain a strong case for government assistance, Chester has lost its Objective 2 status and, with

that, its eligibility for both European Regional Development Funding and European Social Funding, as well as grants from the Rural Development Commission. Together this could mean a loss to Chester of up to £10 million a year.

In addition, rate-capping had required a £2.5 million cut in the city's budget in one year alone, achieved by decimating the capital budget. This is bound to have an impact on the development of projects and activities included under the Chester Action



The famous Rows at the Cross

Plan, a partnership initiative involving more than 300 organisations — public, private and voluntary — in the city.

A wide range of projects has begun under the plan to improve the city's 4,000 unfit dwellings, and to provide more park and ride sites on the edge of the city, adding to the service which already saves 250,000 car journeys a year into the narrow streets of central Chester.

Mr Durham says: "I can't help thinking that one of Chester's weaknesses is a lack of understanding that it does need an appropriate level of help to pump-prime schemes for which there will always be a positive

private-sector response. We have become increasingly creative in trying to find ways through all these frustrations, but we cannot escape the fact that the amount available to reinvest in this city becomes more and more restricted. You cannot rely solely on Chester's heritage as the only attraction in the portfolio offered to potential investors. You need something rather more hard-edged than that, especially when other areas close by have so many more inducements to offer."

The Chester Action Programme set a target of creating 1,000 new jobs in the city a year. Sarah John, economic development officer, points out that the 1,600 jobs created in the city last year put Chester ahead of target, with private sector investment of £130 million. "Chester still ranks as an intermediate area so we have some assisted status to help promotion. But we must be sure to present the heritage and culture of the city as it is and not try to change it for a particular audience."

"You must retain the character and spontaneity of the British way of life, which would include working elements around it. People are fascinated by heritage, by what we produce. They like watching other people work, whether at crafts or on the sharp end of technology. Americans in particular value the British heritage but we must be careful not to mothball everything," she says.

The importance of heritage to the city could be measured by the number of inquiries handled by the tourist information centre in the town hall. This has doubled in a decade. The ancient heart of the city contains an impressive concentration of high-quality shops, making Chester one of the busiest retailing centres in Britain. The pressure which such popularity generates in itself creates problems, and Chester is the subject of a major environmental capacity study, one of the first of its kind in Europe.

The city has a strategy for further capitalising on its cultural assets with festivals of music and art. It plays an active part in the proposed North West Film Commission, promoting the region's locations and hoping to persuade the film industry to use



Chester cathedral looms at the end of historic St Werburgh Street

Chester's historic settings as a unique backdrop.

Studies and strategies for the city are being generated all the time, but they point to the one direction of sensitive development of Chester's rich inheritance. The city may be strongly walled, but the heritage contained within is a fragile but vital element in the quality of life that has attracted so many companies and individuals to live there.

Outside Mr Durham's office in the town hall, workmen were demolishing the concrete ramparts of the building next door. It was only 25 years old, one of the few Sixties creations that crept through. A new

construction with yet more retail space, and a new approach for the Forum Theatre in keeping with historic Chester, will soon occupy the space.

The chief executive places much faith in the overall future strategy. "The main keys are the partnership between public and private sectors, a coherent vision developing for the community, the city and the district around Chester, and capitalising successfully on the tremendous asset which the historic city is. But that must be used to address the real social and economic needs that any community faces, particularly in the North of England."

Jobs for the new century

Under its cloak of affluence, Chester has the problems of any other city

Chester, for all its rich heritage and apparent affluence, wears its heart on its sleeve when it is conceded that "high unemployment, rising social stress and increasing economic instability" threaten the city's aspirations to long-term prosperity.

These problems have been identified as challenges to be faced by the Chester Action Programme, an initiative based on a partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors, which is striving to achieve a strategy to take the city of 117,000 people forward into the next millennium.

The programme has assessed the city's considerable assets and achievements, but as a framework document outlining proposed action points out, it has also unmasked Chester's hidden problems that have been shielded from view by an image of affluence.

It says the city — a centre for investment and one of Britain's tourist jewels — has a serious imbalance between the manufacturing and service sectors, harbours urban homelessness and suffers a shortage of affordable rural housing and of job opportunities. In addition, it faces the high cost of sustaining its rich city centre heritage.

According to the city council, there is an 80-20 split in favour of the service sector over manufacturing as a jobs provider. The council believes that as most job losses are occurring in manufacturing, more employment opportunities must be created in that sector through investment by high-tech firms and by developing local businesses.

Unemployment in the area is 12 per cent — well above the national average of 9.1 per cent — and there is concern that the service sector alone, notably tourism, financial services and retailing, will not create the 1,000 new jobs a year that are needed. Barbara Mothershaw, the council's head of economic and tourism development, said there were other reasons why the city had to be resourceful and innovative in its strategy, not least the limited land available for development sites. There are only about 60 acres left to take the city through to 2010. As a result, the council is investigating "regeneration" sites.

Thirteen sites in the city have been identified as key regeneration zones, including the Old Port area, where 21 acres of land between the city walls and the river Dee have been earmarked for potential use by tourism and leisure-related industries.

Mrs Mothershaw says the partnership approach involved through the Chester Action Programme is a powerful component in the plan for action. "It is showing people that the city has lots of positive sides: we know what the challenges are and that we can address them," she says.

Voluntary agencies, industrial and business interests, the local Training and Enterprise Council, Cheshire County Council, churches, MPs and MEPs are all participating in the partnership. It envisages action to develop "one stop shop" business support; the development of small work-shops and new business sites; plans to upgrade existing sites or create new employment areas; and a range of measures to improve or expand facilities across further and higher education and training. Other plans to relieve homelessness, improve retail facilities and to promote Chester nationally and internationally as a tourist and

conference location are also being canvassed.

The Chester Action Programme is being run against the background of reduced Government and EC support, which has made it essential that new funding is found, search that heralds a greater role for the private sector.

The city has lost development area status — replaced by intermediate status — and has also lost access to European Regional Development funds. But, according to officials of the council and the Chester Action Programme, a strategy has been laid down, backed by a determination that the partnership approach will enable the city to conquer the challenges it faces.

The city also hopes to participate in proposals for a North West Film Commission, which would see the region develop a bigger role in the film and television industry. Chester sees itself being involved as a film location, a role that would help to promote tourism.

CRAIG SETON

Drivers rally to the 1994 RAC challenge

Chester is playing host to this year's Network Q RAC Rally, which starts in the city on Sunday, Craig Seton writes. This is the fifth year of the rally, which attracts two million spectators throughout its various stages and claims to be Britain's largest annual sporting event. The city last played host in

Chester is once again playing host to this year's annual motor sports event

1992 and officials of the city council are jubilant to have captured the 1994 event, which represents the tenth and final round of this year's FIA World Rally Championship and receives worldwide attention and media coverage.

Barbara Mothershaw, the council's economic and tourism development officer, says: "We are delighted that Chester is once again the host for the RAC rally. We believe it is an excellent way of promoting Chester nationally and inter-

nationally, and it has intangible long-term marketing benefits for the area."

More significantly, an agreement is due to be signed soon that will make Chester the host headquarters for the rally next year and again in 1996, a move that both public and private sector organisations in the area believe will be a big boost to the local economy. It will also help to extend the range of promotional activities and events for local people and visitors.

The city council estimates that 3,500 bed spaces in the city will be needed during the rally's overnight stops in Chester, and that restaurants, pubs and other retail outlets in the city will benefit from the new "off-peak" business.

The RAC Motor Sports Association says the event's international reputation has grown rapidly, and many cities and towns are eager to act as host. Worldwide television coverage of the event last year was seen by an estimated 188 million

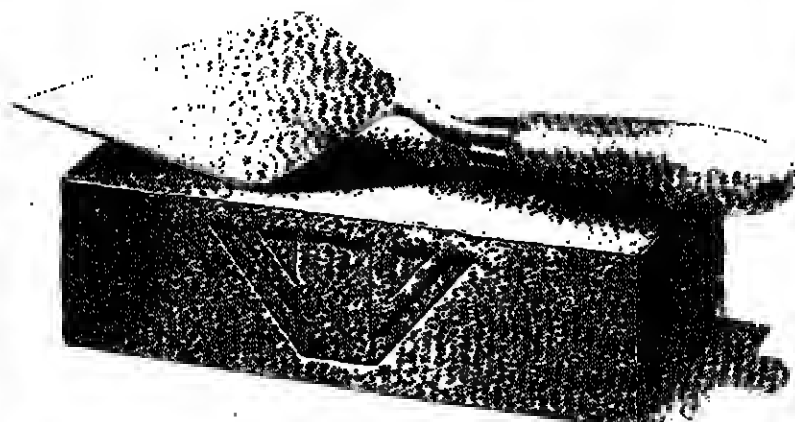
viewers across 79 countries. A spokeswoman says: "It is the only world championship rally in this country and the only time that enthusiasts get to see world-class rally drivers in action. It is a very big event for any town as there are people coming from all over the world."

The 180 starters face almost 1,500 miles of driving during the four-day event, including more than 320 miles on 29 timed special stages. An army of 11,000 volunteer marshals are on duty during its various stages.

On Saturday there will be a rally show and scrutineering at Northgate Arena in Chester, before the rally gets under way at Chester's Eastgate the following day. The first day is, as usual, designated for family spectators, with special stages at stately homes and public parks, including Carden Park east of Wrexham, Tatton Park near Knutsford, Chatsworth near Chesterfield, Clumber Park near Worksop and Donington Park near Derby.

The remaining three days of the rally are to be spent on the gruelling forest roads of Durham, Northumberland, the Borders in Cumbria, Powys, Dyfed, Gwynedd and Clwyd, before it finishes at Chester racetrack on the afternoon of Wednesday November 23, when at least 6,000 spectators are expected to watch the prizegiving. The total prize fund for the rally is almost £60,000.

LAND REQUIRED



The foundations for a good quality of life are laid by a good quality home. To build more quality homes we need to acquire more land throughout the UK.

So if you have land suitable for development either with planning permission or with the prospect of planning permission we need to know about it.

Wainhomes have the expertise, professionalism and resources you'd expect from one of the nation's most successful homebuilders.

In the first instance write with details to the Managing Director at the address shown below.

WAINHOMES
BUILDING BRITAIN'S HERITAGE

Wainhomes plc, Head Office: The Beeches, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1PR.
Telephone (0244) 310421

'It is an excellent way of promoting Chester'

The **BUSINESS CONNECTION**

Chester...

A city with a history and a future!

Make the move with one of the North West's leading Recruitment Specialists



51A Bridge Street Row
Chester CH1 1PP
Tel: 0244 350303

CAPENHURST. ENRICHING OUR FUTURE IN NUCLEAR ENERGY.

Situated on the outskirts of Chester, Capenhurst plays an important role in the enrichment of Uranium, which is all part of making fuel for the latest generation of nuclear reactors.

The enrichment process is carried out using highly advanced centrifuge technology, which we've developed over the years in conjunction with Dutch and German companies, in the URENCO partnership.

BNFL is part owner of URENCO Ltd, and also a world leader in decommissioning technology.



British Nuclear Fuels plc, Public Relations, Capenhurst, Chester CH1 6ER.
Telephone: 051-347 3518 or 3525.



Urenco (Capenhurst) Limited

City means business

Craig Seton looks at Chester's success in enticing private enterprise, from banking giants to traditional craftsmen

Executives of the US-owned MBNA International Bank examined sites in Europe and throughout Britain before deciding to build a new headquarters office on the Chester Business Park for its financial services and credit card operation.

The bank's move last year to the 150-acre landscaped park has been a coup for Chester City Council, which was delighted to have attracted the firm against competition from other potential locations. It says MBNA's estimated £30 million project is one of the largest US investments in the United Kingdom for several years.

Tom McGinley, MBNA's chief executive, explains: "We chose Chester because of the readily available workforce: a young and enthusiastic group of people of exactly the type we like to bring on board."

The bank's new 50,000 sq ft custom-built office is its UK headquarters and prospective European HQ, and employs 200 people, many of them graduates working in the company's customer service and credit departments serving the UK. Mr McGinley says he expects the workforce to continue to grow, depending on the company's market share.

"We looked at a number of different sites in different countries," he says. "We wanted to have a business-orientated climate in a place which would welcome a company moving from another country."

Good communications were also an important factor: Chester has important rail links, and Manchester International Airport is just 30 minutes' drive away.

Private sector investment in Chester reached about £150 million in 1993-94, and the equivalent of 1,500 full-time jobs were created in the city, although more recent news suggests 800 jobs may be lost in local manufacturing industry, in addition to a further 1,000 in aerospace.

MBNA's arrival adds to the list of company headquarters based in the city, which is also host to M&S Financial Services, Shell Chemicals (UK) and BICC Cables.

There have been successes too in enticing manufacturing firms to Chester. Cacao Barry (UK) Ltd, a member of the Barry Group, opened a new factory two years ago on the 84-acre Chester West industrial and commercial site after looking at 16 locations in the North of England, which is where most of



Creating oysterwork inlays at the Silver Lining craft workshops

its market lies for its bulk production of high quality chocolate for use in biscuits, cakes, confectionery and ice-cream. It is the French-based group's thirteenth factory - it has others in France, Belgium and the US - and represents an investment of £10 million.

The company says the Chester plant, built in a record time of only five months on an eight-acre site, is now employing 52 people, is the most technically advanced chocolate factory currently in production.

Marc Donaldson, commercial manager, says Chester best fitted the company's location criteria. The city had development area status at

the time of the move, making grants available. The factory is within 45 minutes of an international airport, at Manchester, and is within easy reach of good road communications. The culture and quality of life in Chester also impressed the firm.

The company delivers 25,000 tons of chocolate a year, which is transported by road. Mr Donaldson describes the company's efforts to find the best location: "We sat down with a transport company and used a very sophisticated computer system to identify a site in terms of logistics and our major customer base."

The company says the workforce progressed to full production in record time: "The recruitment programme was based on the firm belief that the best results would be achieved by employing high quality staff who had a willingness to learn, rather than people who had worked for chocolate companies before and might have preconceived ideas."

"The result is an excellently trained and dedicated team who have had the opportunity to work at Barry factories in France and Belgium as part of their training package."

Two more American firms, quality soap maker Original Bradford and NEBS Business Stationery, are also located on Chester West, where the Isle of Man company Strix, manufacturer of thermostatic controls for kettles and jugs, is investing £10 million and creating 30 jobs at a new plant.

The Duke of Westminster, one of Britain's biggest landowners and wealthiest men, is also helping the local economy through 25 small businesses that operate from leased farm buildings on his 11,000-acre Grosvenor Estate on the outskirts of Chester.

Vehicle repairers, an architect, a maker of high quality furniture and a firm of chartered surveyors are among those operating on the estate, in buildings that had fallen into disuse through changes in agriculture. More than 100 people work in the businesses in a project that began about 15 years ago.

Tim Barter, deputy agent of the estate, says: "Certainly the estate considers this to be a partnership. We try to choose tenants who will gain the maximum benefit from being on the estate. It is one of the ways of keeping rural areas alive."

One of the tenant businesses is Silver Lining Workshops, a bespoke furniture-making business based in the village of Aldford and owned by Mark Boddington, of the Boddington brewery family. His firm has been on the estate for eight years and employs a total of six people, four of them craftsmen.

"There are about 11 businesses within a quarter of a mile of here and it is a fantastic way of re-using farm buildings," he says. "It is also regenerating the village, which was dying, but now young people are coming back into it again."

The firm's turnover has gone from £11,000 a year to an annual £300,000, and it has recently begun marketing limited edition furniture, with showrooms in America.



Chester is trying to ease the pressure from visitors on its small, compact city centre

When in Chester...

The city has the knack of bringing history to life, says

Ronald Faux

Caius Julius Quirinus glared from beneath his stainless steel helmet at the small boy who asked him if his head itched. The warm autumnal weather had produced a bead of sweat on the end of the warrior's nose. He reassured the lad that Roman soldiers were used to heat and changed the subject to troop strengths in the legionary stronghold of Deva, as Chester was known during its 300 years of Roman occupation.

As he led the party away to fascinate them with a reconstruction of the hypocaust, an ingenious system of underfloor heating devised by the Romans, the sun glinted brilliantly on his breast plate.

Chester tries hard to make its history come alive for youngsters. Gerald Tatum, tourism development officer, explained that Caius Julius was a Roman soldier billeted in Chester 2,000 years ago. He had been resurrected by an actor to give his life story to parties of children, and had become a popular figure. Other characters revived to act out Chester's history include a Tudor lady who eloped with a young squire, much to the fury of her father who was mayor at the time.

Ghost hunter tours around the town at dusk introduce more sombre moments of the city's past and attract as many as 400 people at Halloween.

A marketing survey last summer showed that tourism puts at least £150 million a year into the Chester economy. The five million tourists who arrive to look round the city each year make it the fifth most visited city in Britain. Some 16,000 jobs, 30 per cent of all jobs in Chester, depend to some degree on tourism.

The city walls, to which Cromwell's army laid siege for two years, are among the most complete in the land and can be circumnavigated in an hour's stroll. Chester is a prime mover in the pan-European Walled Towns Friendship Circle.

The city is one of those places where you can stand on a street corner and watch the world go by: one minute Germans, Italians and Scandinavians then a conference group of Japanese," Mr Tatum says. "We have 60 guides and between them they speak just about every major language."

Visitors have a choice of Chester Zoo; Roman, Saxon and Norman ruins; museums military, Roman and childhood; and a heritage centre that presents audio-visually the city's history and architecture. Chester cathedral may not dominate the city in the way that some other cathedral cities are dominated, but the building does evoke the ambience of the medieval monastery it once was, and has an excellent video presentation of its history.

Being relatively small and compact, the centre of Chester can quickly become overwhelmed by visitors, a hiatus which a new partnership between council, hoteliers and shopkeepers is working to resolve. A winter shopping scheme is the latest attempt to spread the season more evenly.

Under the scheme, the city offers incentives and discounts in its hotels, shops, restaurants and attractions to persuade people to experience Chester in its less crowded moments.

These are unlikely to occur between May and August or at times during October when Chester's flat race meetings take place on the Roodee racetrack. Where horses now thunder down the straight, Roman galleys once moored and the city thrived as an important port. Then the river Dee, which flows to the south of the city, changed course, and in 1539 the Roodee became popular for horse racing and has been popular ever since, making it the oldest racecourse in the country.

A city of achievement with a plan for success

CHESTER Action PROGRAMME

The commitment and self-reliance which have characterised so much of Chester's achievement are focussed on a new challenge as important as any in the city's history.

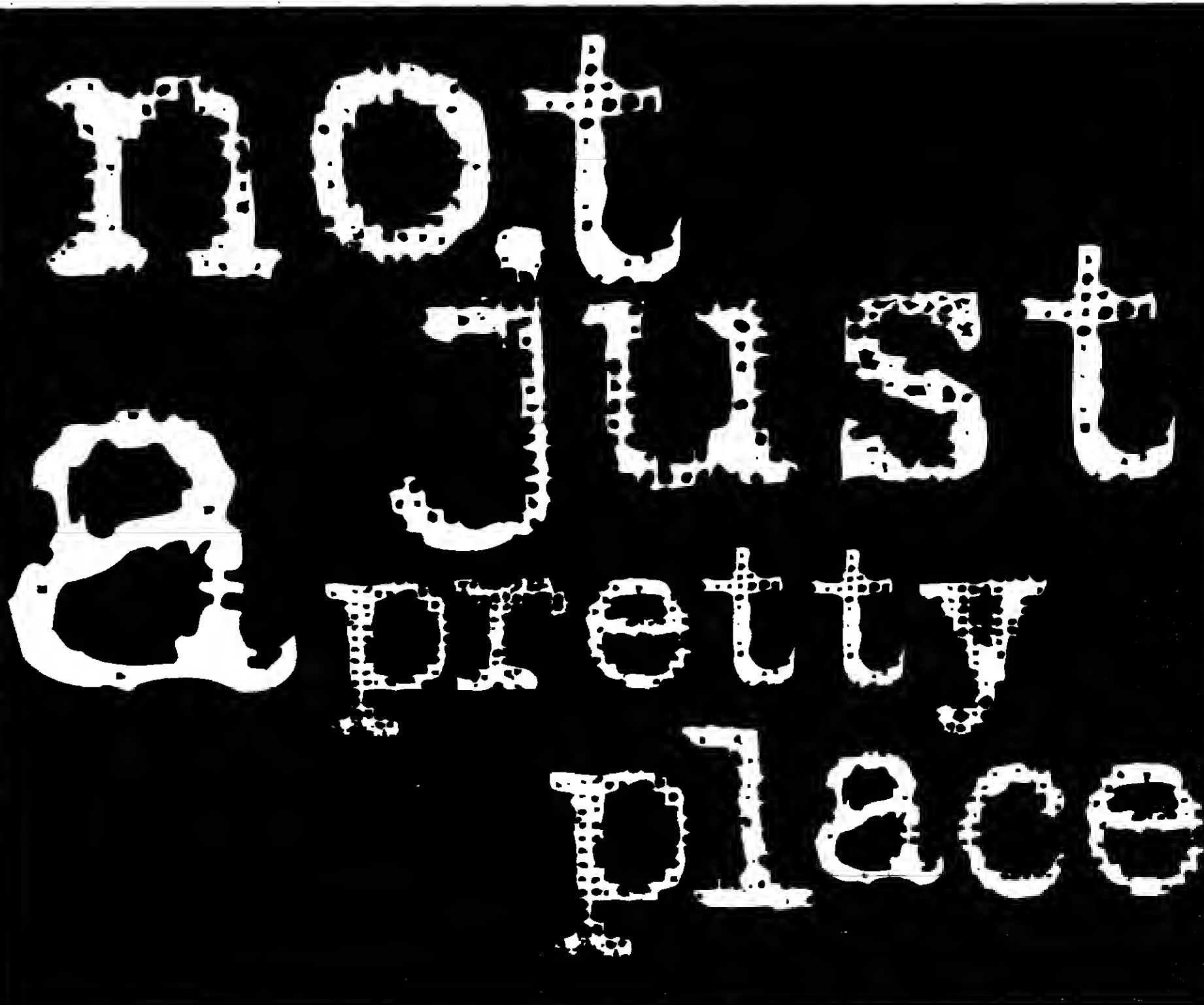
For further information contact Pauline Gamy, Chester Action Programme Co-ordinator, Town Hall, Chester CH1 2HY. Telephone: Chester 01244 324321 ext. 2021. Fax: 01244 321338.

One unitary Council for Chester!... to take Chester into the

21st Century



Chester City Council



For further information on business development and expansion in Chester contact:

The Economic & Tourism Development Unit, The Forum, Chester CH1 2HS. Tel: 01244 324324 Extn. 2452



Chester City Council



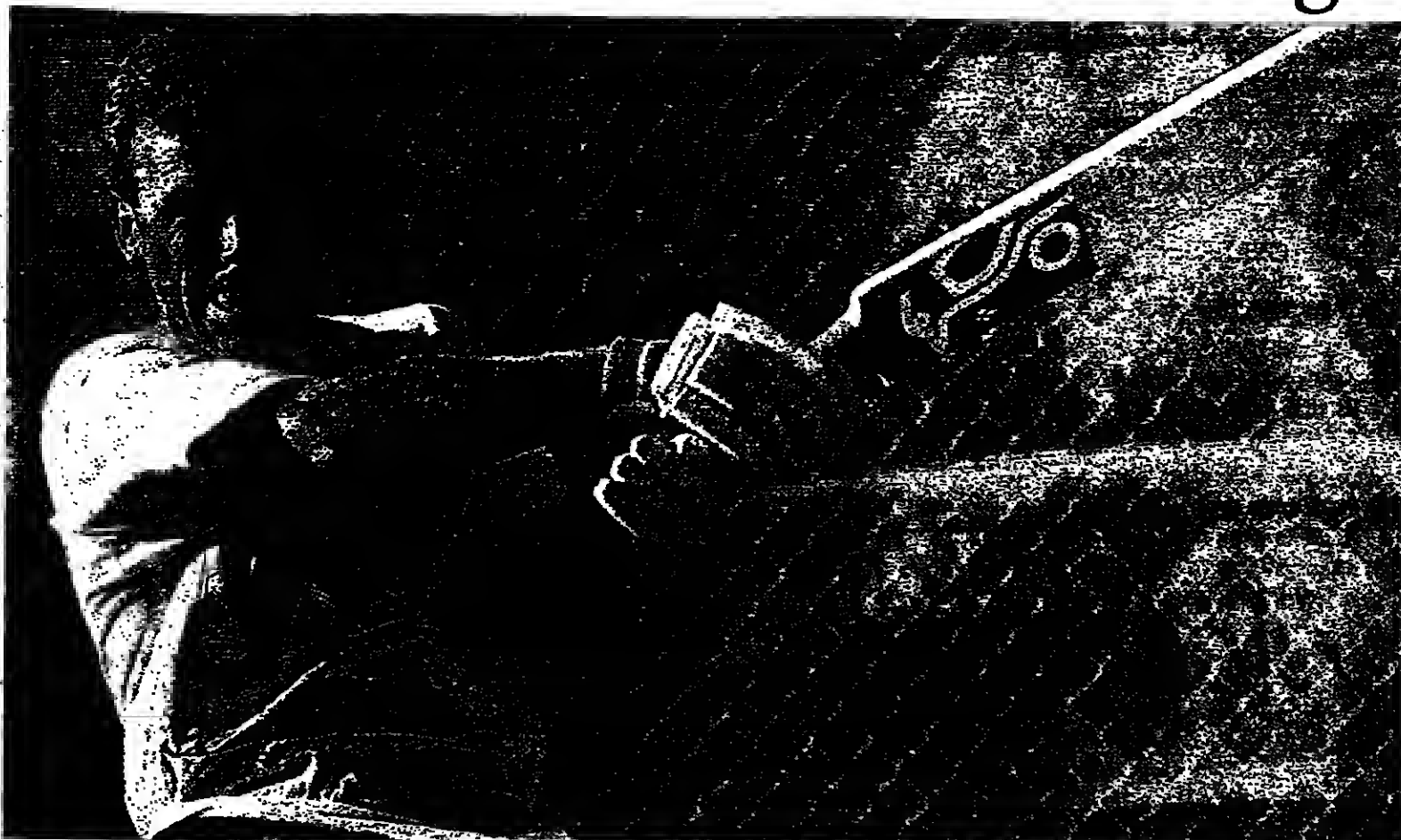
Hughes intent on final Ashes fling

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN HOBART

THERE are few sportsmen in the world so instantly recognisable as Merv Hughes and he had only to stroll into the departures lounge at Melbourne airport yesterday to have a hundred heads turning his way.

Hughes, very much more than the showman he portrays, is, for some England batsmen, a haunting memory from the most recent Ashes embarrassment. It was a memory they hoped to expunge while the likelihood remained that Australia would exclude Hughes, as they have for most of this year. But, suddenly, the crusade for Merv's return is gathering irresistible momentum.

He will take the new ball for an Australian XI, chosen by



Stewart, a study in concentration, puts his damaged finger to the test at practice in Hobart yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

the Test selectors, in the four-day match starting at Bellerive Oval tomorrow. While the touring side must settle places remaining open for the first Test team, wickets for Hughes will guarantee a reunion in Brisbane in a week's time.

Hughes cuts a preposterous figure these days, with his shaven hairstyle and luxuriant moustache, and he does not deny being heavier than he would like despite several months of intensive training. He will be 33 next Wednesday and, married now with a baby who beguiles him, he cannot push mind and body through the snarling fast bowler routine very much longer.

Like many another Australia-

lian, though, Hughes is motivated above all else by beating England. "You can't better that," he said, explaining it is why "Australia play better cricket against England than any other country". He is intent on a fifth and final Ashes series and starting it next week.

Allan Border was always Hughes's greatest supporter, seeing in him the intensity of patriotic purpose he evinced. No longer captain, Border nevertheless still makes himself heard and he chose yesterday to reaffirm his belief in "the big bloke".

Hughes dismissed Border twice in a Sheffield Shield game last weekend and Border

was impressed: "There is nothing wrong with his bowling or his stamina. I've nothing against those who went to Pakistan, but I honestly believe we need Merv in that Test team as an enforcer," Border said, adding: "The Poms don't like facing him."

Here, he has an unarguable point. Hughes carried the Australian seam attack in England last year, pushing himself so far and so hard that he has not been the same bowler since. In taking 31 wickets in the Test series, he gained the respect of Graham Gooch and cast an intimidating spell over Graeme Hick that drove him out of the side.

Now that Hick is batting more

assertively than at any stage in his England career, Hughes presents a psychological barrier he simply must overcome.

Little else remains to be decided about the Australian line-up for next week, but if one of their batting places, currently securely bolted down, should fall vacant, there will be as great a clamour for Ricky Ponting to be chosen as there already is for Hughes.

Ponting is only 19, yet, in his first 24 Shield matches, he has scored eight centuries. He is being showered with fine words by the luminaries of Australian cricket and could easily be in the Test side before this winter is over, batting

alongside his mentor and fellow-Tasmanian, David Boon.

Tomorrow's occasion is a special one for Ponting, a representative honour on his home island, where summer is arriving so late that snow was falling only last week. It says much for his growing reputation that attention will be focused upon him despite the presence of three young batsmen who have already played Test cricket and one, Matthew Hayden, who scored 201 not out against Victoria on Monday.

One of England's recurring problems, so far on tour, has been the inability of most of their batsmen to make big

scores. Only Gooch and Hick are exempt. Tomorrow, contentiously, Gooch will not go in first, where he prefers to bat and from where he has already made two centuries on this tour, but must drop down to No 5 to accommodate the return of Alec Stewart.

The theory that Stewart should open throughout this series has not been abandoned, despite his failure to play a single game since suffering a broken finger at practice, three weeks ago. Yet it is not an unshakeable notion: unless, over the coming weekend, he can show some convincing form, Stewart may yet find himself swapping places with Gooch once again.

Harold employs percentages against Davis

By PHIL YATES

STEVE Davis failed to reach the last sixteen of the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship for the first time in his 15-year professional career when he was beaten 9-6 by Dave Harold at Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

Davis, who monopolised the title between 1980 and 1987, winning it six times, was using a cue borrowed from his father after damaging his own two weeks ago, but he refused to blame that for the defeat.

Instead, he praised Harold, a player in his own mould. By adopting a Davis-like percentage game, Harold, 27, from Stoke, has gradually developed into one of snooker's hard men. He captured the Asian Open title last year as a 500-1 outsider and, only last month, he eliminated both Stephen Hendry and Alan McManus en route to the Skoda Grand Prix final.

Harold certainly impressed Davis, who had won both of their previous meetings 5-0. "There was no excuse other than that Dave played to a very high standard. I have got a lot of admiration and his success is no fluke," Davis, the world No 2, said.

After a highly tactical opening session on Tuesday, the score read 4-4. Davis moved 5-4 ahead on the resumption, but Harold levelled at 5-5 with the aid of an 82 break and went 6-5 ahead by clearing the colours to black in the eleventh frame.

Davis, who had missed a straightforward black with three reds left, never recovered. Breaks of 71, 78 and 72 earned Harold three of the following four frames and ensured that Davis would make his earliest departure from a tournament that is second only in prestige to the world championship.

Harold, who now meets another former world champion, Alex Higgins, was as pleased with the manner in which his victory was achieved as the result itself.

"Without doubt it was the best performance of my career. To beat Steve Davis at his own game is very satisfying," he said.

Higgins, rejuvenated after a woeful start to the season in which he managed to prevail in only one of his first six matches, progressed thanks to a 9-7 win over Drew Henry, of Glasgow, completed with a 94 break in the sixteenth frame.

It is the first time that Higgins, now 45, has reached the last sixteen of a ranking tournament since the 1991 Dubai Classic and it will be his first appearance in front of the television cameras at the United Kingdom championship for seven years.

Willie Thorne took another step to arresting his slide down the provisional

SECOND ROUND

England unless stated
RESULTS: W Thorne 6-1 J Wilkinson
9-4, A Higgins 9-1 (ret) vs O Henry (Scott)
9-7, J Williams (Wales) 6-1 R McDonald
(Scott); O Harold 6-5 S Davis 9-6
LATEST POSITIONS: P Beeson leads D Taylor (Wales) 7-1, J Swift (Wales) level with O O'Kane (NI) 4-4, O Morgan (Wales) leads B Morgan 6-2; M King leads A Hamilton 5-3

rankings to No 32 by converting a 6-2 overnight lead into a 9-4 victory over Gary Wilkinson, while James Wattana, of Thailand, comfortably beat Richard McDonald 9-3.

Davis, Jimmy White and the women's world No 1, Allison Fisher, will take part in a four-day international nine-ball pool tournament next month, broadcast by Sky Television, featuring leading professionals from Europe, competing against their American counterparts in singles, doubles and mixed doubles contests.

The nine-ball game, popular in the United States, is played on a bigger table and under different rules to the type of pool enjoyed in British pubs.

SPORTS LETTERS

Bond between goalkeepers

From Mr E. J. Little

Sir, The freemasonry of goalkeepers to which Simon Barnes (November 10) alludes so eloquently, transcends the narrow confines of football and embraces other sports, not least hockey, where the agencies of picking the ball out of the back of the net are all too similar.

The freemasonry knows only too well the red haze of anger and frustration associated with conceding a goal so that it finds it hard to accept that a man — and a leader of the tribe, at that — would deliberately humiliate himself in such a manner. Surely money alone would not buy a goalkeeper's pride.

The difficulty of keeping the ball out of the net, whatever the game and whatever the level at which it is played, is such that it is almost inconceivable that a keeper of Bruce Grobelaar's stature would compromise the bond which exists between all practitioners of that most solitary and respectable art.

Like Simon Barnes, I am also a "resting" member of the fraternity (I don't think goalkeepers ever retire, certainly not mentally, even if, eventually, they do physically), albeit in another game. When I think of all the goals I have let in for free over the years, I would be a rich man had I been paid for them. But that is not the point: goalkeepers do not willingly allow themselves to be beaten, it is totally against their nature.

Further, as any goalkeeper

will tell you, it is not possible to predict the shots which will occur during a match and therefore utterly impossible to agree to let in a predetermined number. If you let in three, so's law will present you with the deflected blind shot into the corner on the final whistle.

Yours etc.,
E. J. LITTLE,
15 Meadow Springs,
Lydiard Millicent,
Wiltshire.

From Mr J. J. Rendell
Sir, Rob Hughes's article on Bruce Grobelaar (November 10) makes fascinating reading but shows little understanding of the betting world. He is right to point out that no goalkeeper could be sure to fix a match so that his team lost by 3-0, but a dishonest goalkeeper could sharply reduce the odds against that happening. If, on current form and with fair play, the bookmaker's odds against a 3-0 result were 20-1, the real odds if the goalkeeper had been "fixed" might be more like 4-1. It is the large difference between the odds on offer and the perceived chance of success which is so attractive to potential fraudsters, not some mythical certainty.

Yours faithfully,
JERRY RENDELL,
1 York Road,
Windsor, Berkshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Weakness of county game

From Mr P. J. Wilde

Sir, Mr C. J. F. Pavey (Sports Letters, November 10) has watched county cricket since 1946, professes himself well satisfied with what he sees and asks what difference spectators would notice if standards were improved.

In the first place, in financial terms, an awful lot stems from there being an adequate Test side: hence the introduction of four-day county cricket and the attempt to ensure that first-class pitches are of a generally higher standard. The first-class game must offer a better foundation for representative cricket.

The county game may or may not be good to watch. My overseas friends tend to question its standard as compared with their own provincial cricket. That is surely significant.

In terms of enjoyment, a village or club match should be as much "fun" to watch as a first-class game. The first-class match should, however, plainly be of a higher technical standard in batting and bowling.

The consensus of informal opinion seems to be that the standard of our first-class cricket is inadequate in terms of preparation for Test play. That is certainly what the recent struggles at that level suggest.

Yours etc.,
P. J. WILDE,
Flat 2,
95 Lansome Road, SE15.

Drivers' attitude has changed

From Mr R. N. Gregg

Sir, Even at today's hectic pace, significant change in attitude tends to be relatively slow, so when a stark comparison does present itself, the jolt is quite severe. Events at the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide last weekend were just such a case.

Ivan Rendl records in his book, *Cherished Flag*, that, in 1958, the drivers' championship was finely poised. By the last race, the Moroccan Grand Prix at Casablanca, Mike Hawthorn held the narrowest of leads over Stirling Moss.

During the race, Hawthorn went off the circuit, stalling his engine, but was able to push his car back onto the track and restart the engine unaided. He eventually finished second behind Moss, who had driven a faultless race.

Hawthorn was then disqualified for "pushing the car against the traffic" (a manoeuvre prohibited by the rules). That gave Moss the points lead he needed to clinch the championship. Moss, however, intervened to say that he had seen Hawthorn push his car backwards only on the pavement, which was not against the rules. On that evidence, Hawthorn's second place was reinstated and with it he took the championship.

At Adelaide, it appeared that Michael Schumacher had fully regained control of his car after his error. It must therefore have been his controlling action which moved his car into the path of Hill's, it could perhaps accept that it

was an instinctive reaction, but even that would in no way relieve him of responsibility for his action.

In contrast to Moss, Schumacher saw nothing wrong in accepting his title. Yours faithfully,
R. N. GREGG,
27 Woodhill Road,
Portsmouth, Bristol, Avon.

From Mr C. G. O'Dowd
Sir, The collision between Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher is not the first time in recent seasons that the outcome of the drivers' championship has hinged upon who completes the race.

It may be that the time has come to provide for the deduction of points already earned from any offending drivers if a "convenient" collision occurs. This would reduce any temptation to prevent a rival completing.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER G. O'DOWD,
6 Glendale Close,
Pogmoor, Barnsley,
South Yorkshire.

British first

From Ms Melanie Crowther
Sir, Sport In Brief (November 12) notes that Rebecca Stephens, "the first woman to climb Everest", has been shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year.

She was the first British woman to climb Everest. The first woman to reach the summit was a Japanese, Junko Tabei, in 1975 and there

Outstanding role models

From Mr Dennis Dickinson

Sir, At a time when sleaze and bad news fill the headlines, I would like to relate a recent experience at Newcastle United Football Club.

During our annual rugby tour, our school team visited Newcastle's training ground. After the session, Kevin Keegan and his squad spent around 30 minutes signing autographs, being photographed and chatting to the fans. All the players and the manager in particular seemed genuinely happy and interested to carry out these duties, which they obviously consider very important. They are, too.

What an excellent role model for my boys to see: when you are rich and famous, you can still be polite and humble.

Yours etc.,
DENNIS DICKINSON,
Newfield House,
Loreto Junior School,
Musselburgh,
Midlothian.

have been quite a number of female ascents since.

It is interesting to note that Anne Bernard applied to the Mount Everest committee in the 1920s and was told firmly that "it is impossible to contemplate the application of a lady whatever nationality, the difficulties would be too great."

Yours faithfully,
MELANIE CROWTHER,
9 Birnam Terrace, Birnam,
By Dunkeld, Perthshire.

Whitakers lead British assault

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN BERLIN

WHILE Nick Skelton, the winner of the Millstreet World Cup qualifier last weekend, gives his horses a well-deserved rest, John and Michael Whitaker head the British team of four that will attempt to repeat Skelton's success at the Berlin World Cup show, which begins today.

The four-day show, which takes place in the city's Deutschlandhalle, is one of the most competitive of the 14 on the World Cup's European circuit. The main threat to the Britons is likely to come from the powerful home side, which includes Franke Sloothak, the world champion, and Ludger Beerbaum, the Olympic champion and former winner of the World Cup.

The Whitakers, though, are optimistic. John pins his hopes for the qualifier on Everest Grannusch, the 15-year-old German-bred gelding that has hardly put a foot wrong this season. His win in Vienna two weeks ago was his fourth major grand prix success this year and brings his winnings for the year to almost £250,000.

"He's in excellent form," John said. "He's also had a week off so he should be

fresh." That is ominous news for Michael and his World Cup ride, Everest Midnight Madness, who were relegated to second place by Grannusch at Wembley in the Everest Championships by 0.2sec. Michael, who was delighted with his fourth place at Millstreet on the eight-year-old Everest Elton, will attempt to reverse that order on Saturday.

The two other British riders competing are Geoff Billington, on It's Otto, and John Popely, with Bluebird, both of whom were shortlisted for the team for the world championships last summer. Billington, lying seventh, is the highest-placed Briton in the World Cup league after his fourth place on It's Otto in Oslo last month.

In addition to the two leading German riders, the entry includes Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, the winner of the Danish qualifier last month, and Jos Lansink, of Holland, who is lying second in the league after winning in Helsinki. The French contingent includes the on-form Alexandra Ledermann, with Rochet, the winners of the Millstreet Derby last Sunday.

With a little

information

you can save up to

£50

The Ariston range of kitchen appliances contains an array of inspirational features. For more details and your nearest Ariston stockist call

0345 555111

ARISTON

Keegan hands back reins after taste of England success



Whelan: classic goal

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

KEVIN Keegan reflected on his first taste of international management with satisfaction yesterday after watching the England Under-21 side beat their Irish counterparts 1-0 at St James' Park, Newcastle, on Tuesday night.

"It's been an exciting experience for me," the Newcastle United manager said, who accepted the invitation to take temporary charge of the side last month when Dave Sexton became unavailable. "It's been a real eye-opener, but I'm able to bow out with a 100 per cent record — and I'll rest with that."

The largest crowd to attend an England Under-21 international —

25,863 — saw Noel Whelan's first-half goal earn England the victory that lifted them to the top of the Uefa championship qualifying group six, ahead of Portugal on goal difference. Keegan, having also overseen England's 3-1 victory over Austria last month, will hand the reins back to Sexton for the next game, in Ireland in March.

While Keegan deflected questions about his possible future involvement in international management — some see him as a possible successor to Venables — it was evident that he felt he had gained much from his two matches. "It's got to be said that it's been hard work but I've really enjoyed it," Keegan said. "It's very different

having just two days with the lads each time. That isn't very long and you've simply got to make the best of it."

Keegan's experience left him convinced that players such as Jamie Redknapp, Robbie Fowler, Sol Campbell and Nicky Butt will make the transition to the full squad in the near future. "These players are more than capable of winning their group," he said. "Dave and Ray Wilkins [his deputy] have built a good spirit and we've profited from that. From what I've seen, the future of English football is very bright."

"It hasn't been easy combining the role with my club job and I don't think I could do it long-term, but I'd just like to thank Terry Venables,

the England coach, for giving me the chance."

Keegan was, nevertheless, unhappy that his side had not performed better in front of the record crowd, even though the captain, Jamie Redknapp, was unavailable with a groin injury. He described the goal by Whelan as "a classic", but admitted that "three or four players struggled".

Whelan, 19, from Leeds United, was less impressed with his own work, saying: "It was a great ball in from Nicky Butt — I just got across my man and got a head to it. Luckily, it went in."

Whelan said the support from the Newcastle public had been astonishing. "The crowd was amazing,"

he said. "They made it a special night. I've got my place now and scoring a goal like that will do me no harm, but with so many good strikers about, I've got to keep scoring to keep it."

As Keegan steps back from the international scene, it is clear that the players he leaves behind have enjoyed the experience as much as he has. The excitement of training under Keegan was clear from the moment the squad gathered before the game in Austria and that continued into this week's preparations.

In spite of a below-par overall performance by the team on Wednesday, Whelan spoke for the whole squad when he assessed the manag-

er's contribution: "For all of us, Kevin is a legend, a hero and for me personally it was a great boost that somebody of his calibre wanted me in the squad," he said. "What I know now is that he is as good a manager as he was a player — and that he is a great man to work with."

"It's been a wonderful experience and everybody's enjoyed it. He's giving up now, but hopefully we'll be able to work with him again a few more times in the future."

In group eight, an own goal from Varlamov in the last minute gave Scotland a 2-1 win against Russia at Cumbernauld, Crawford putting the Scots on level terms after the visitors, through Simutenkov, had taken a 64th-minute lead.

Criticism of Cantona proves costly for Fashanu

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHN Fashanu, the Aston Villa striker, was fined £6,000 by the Football Association yesterday for making derogatory comments about Eric Cantona, the France and Manchester United forward, in a newspaper column.

Fashanu, who has a fortnight in which to appeal, accused Cantona of making a "malicious, dangerous lunge" on Neil Ruddock, the Liverpool defender, in his weekly column in the Sun in September. He also said Cantona was "in need of urgent help".

Fashanu's comments angered United, who immediately complained to the FA. "Fashanu didn't ask for a personal hearing and the case was dealt with on correspondence," Mike Parry, an FA spokesman, said. "We wrote to Fashanu, he wrote back and now we have found him guilty of misconduct under rule 26a (x)."

Fashanu, who last season was cleared by the FA of intent after the elbowing incident that injured Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, had also said in his column: "Running up from behind — in fact, more like sneaking up — and raking your studs down the back of an opponent's calf and tendon is both cowardly and unpleasant." Accusing Cantona of taking the law into his own hands, he said: "Reputations stick and, if you are not careful, destroy you. Eric is heading in that direction right now."

Five years ago, another Villa player, Paul McGrath, was fined £8,500 after newspaper criticism of Manchester United, his former club.

Graeme Sharp, the Oldham Athletic striker, was yesterday named as the club's first new manager for 12 years and immediately admitted he had a lot to learn. Sharp, 34, the former Scotland international, had been in temporary charge of the Endingside Insurance League first division side since

Joe Royle and Willie Donachie left for Everton last week.

"I know I have a lot to learn," Sharp said. "You have to start somewhere, though, and it's a great honour. I have been thinking about hanging up my boots, so this couldn't be better timed."

Sharp, who said he plans to continue playing, has brought in Colin Harvey, once his manager at Everton, as his assistant. "He taught me a lot and I will always be grateful to him," Sharp said. "If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have progressed as far as I have."

Harvey, assistant manager with Mansfield for the last three months, took the job after an unexpected telephone call from the Oldham chairman, Ian Stott, yesterday morning: "It came right out of the blue," Harvey said. "I didn't have much time to think before taking the job. It will be great working with Graeme again and I will do everything I can to help him. Graeme is a student of the game. He knows it inside out and I am sure he will go a long way."

Leeds United have failed in their £3 million bid to sign the Internazionale striker, Ruben Sosa. The Uruguayan is known to be unhappy at the Italian club, but has agreed to stay with them until the end of the season.

The Coventry City striker, Mick Quinn, has joined Plymouth Argyle on a month's loan, with a view to making the move permanent. The former Portsmouth and Newcastle United forward will make his debut against Wrexham at Home Park on Saturday.

Southampton's first FA Carling Premiership match since allegations of match-fixing were made against their goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar — against Arsenal at The Dell on Saturday — is a sell-out.

Ruud Gullit, the former Holland striker, has denied reports that he plans to join the League club, Yokohama Flügels, next season.

GRAHAM Taylor, the manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, hopes to have the Norway international, Ronny Johnsen, in his defence against Middlesbrough on Sunday (Dennis Shaw writes).

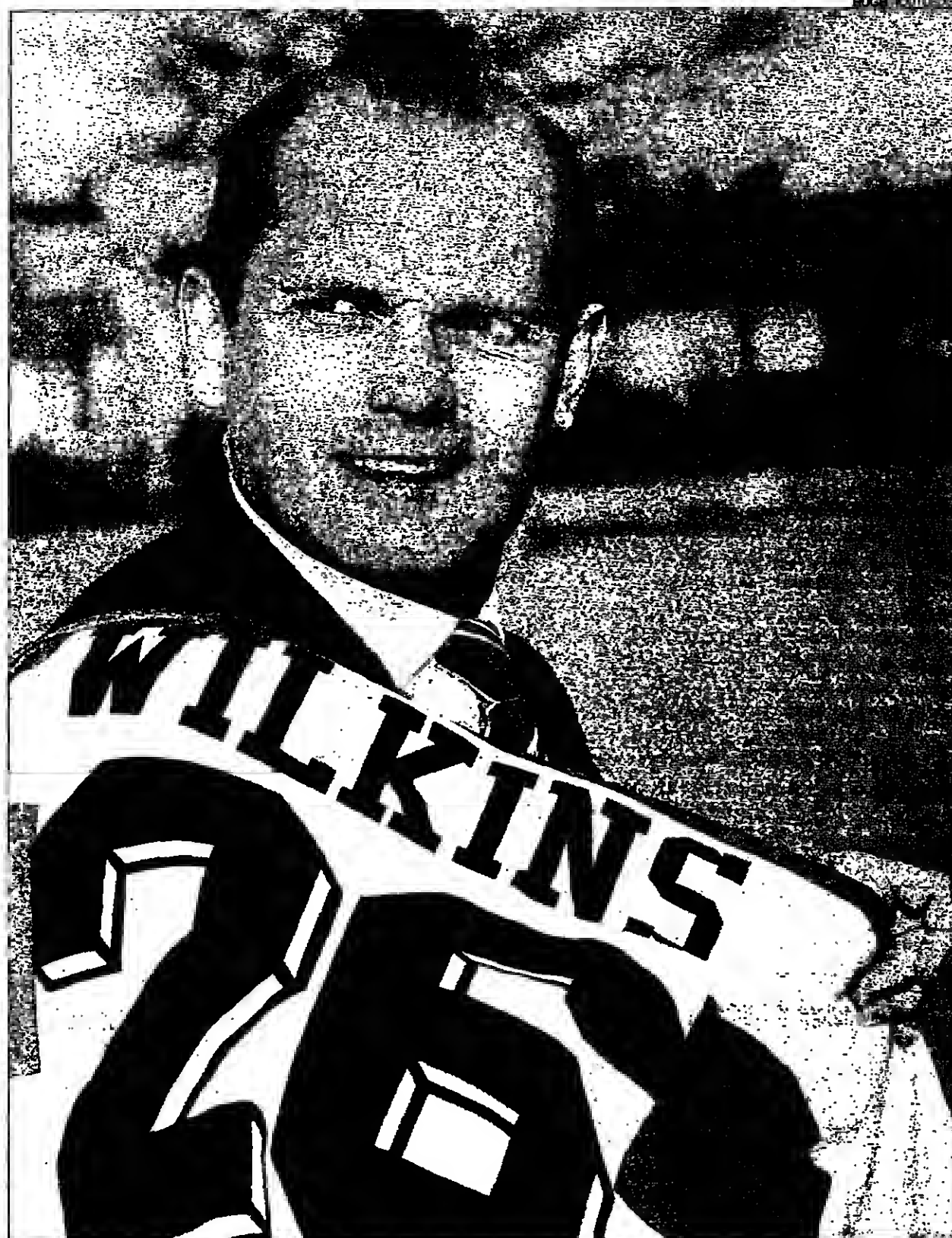
The centre back, who will cost £500,000 from Lillestrøm, won his ninth Norwegian cap against Belarus in last night's European championship qualifying match. He is due at Molineux tomorrow, with his adviser, to discuss terms.

If negotiations proceed smoothly, Johnsen will fill a

position which has been a problem since Peter Shirliff was forced out by an Achilles tendon injury.

Johnsen, who is on an extended loan with Lillestrøm from Lyn, has helped them to second place in the Norwegian league, but Taylor has had the complication of dealing with two clubs as well as the player. "I would like him for Sunday but it looks a bit doubtful," Taylor said.

Wolverhampton's challenge for promotion is being undermined by defensive errors.



Wilkins displays the shirt he will wear when he resumes playing at Loftus Road after recovering from injury

Wilkins prepares for long haul

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RAY Wilkins, officially installed yesterday as player-manager of Queens Park Rangers, yesterday asked supporters for time to improve the club's fortunes.

The former England midfielder, who is making his first foray into management, said he hoped to emulate Brian Clough's length of service with Nottingham Forest.

Clough was at the City Ground for 18 years. Wilkins, 38, left Rangers for Crystal Palace only last summer and has now returned after four months to succeed Gerry Francis.

Supporters, unhappy at the manner of Francis's departure, are said to be planning protests to coincide with the visit of Leeds United to Loftus Road on Saturday. "I've got ideas what reaction I'll get then," Wilkins said. "The main thing is that I get a

positive reaction from the players. If we have that, we'll have a positive performance."

"I want to run a happy ship and get the smiles back on the faces. We'll only win over the supporters by performances on the field. They were 100 per cent behind Gerry and he did an exceptional job here, but Gerry has gone now and we need to turn things around and start performing."

Wilkins, who has signed a contract until 1997, and the club chairman, Peter Ellis, are hoping supporters will end their campaign against the owner of the club, Richard Thompson.

"They have to see that we want Thompson in. That is where we stand. This Thompson out business has got to stop," Ellis said, claiming that Thompson and his father, David, had put £12 million into the club in five years. "They are among the biggest benefactors in the game."

He also repeated his pledge that Les Ferdinand and Trevor Sinclair would not be sold this season, but Wilkins conceded that position could change eventually: "I understand the situation here. We have sold players in the past to keep the club afloat. The important thing is that we have players here at the moment who can perform. Les (Ferdinand) and Trevor (Sinclair) will be here until the end of the season. We're languishing at the wrong end of the table and it's important they are here to help us stay in the FA Carling Premiership."

"I had five great seasons here as a player and to say that I was disappointed to leave at the end of last season is an understatement. Having this four-month interval away from the players has helped to give me a bit of distance as I start in management, but I'm also in the very pleasant position of knowing them."

Wilkins, who has been out of action for practically the whole season because of a broken foot, envisages a return to first-team football by Christmas. He will also continue as coach to the England Under-21 team, assisting Dave Sexton, a former manager of Rangers, who may now return to Loftus Road to help coach the junior teams.

"It's something I love doing," Wilkins said. "Working with Dave Sexton and people of that ilk can only give me confidence to go on and become a decent manager."

Rangers are eighteenth in the table, one place above the relegation zone, and with only three Premiership victories to show for their efforts, but Wilkins, who confirmed he intended to allow no leading players to leave this season, has a tough target. "I want to do at least as well as Gerry and he got us to fifth. That could get us into Europe."

New delays put back launch of American league

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MAJOR League Soccer, the football league planned by the United States, will start a year late and with fewer teams than projected after further delays. Alan Rothenberg, the league president said yesterday.

Rothenberg, who led the organising of the World Cup finals, said Chicago and Tampa will join Los Angeles, Washington, Boston, New Jersey, San Jose and Columbus when play begins in April 1996. Two other clubs — selected from Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Kansas, Indianapolis, Miami, Seattle, San Diego or Tulsa — will complete the line-up. At least one more team, from a franchise in New York, is not expected to join the league until 1997 or 1998 because its planned stadium will not be ready until then.

Alexi Lalas, who became a household name during the World Cup and plays in the Italian first division, said he would be among a number of American players who would welcome the chance of returning to their homeland.

Rothenberg said he did not think a \$1.3 million (about £820,000) salary limit would prevent them from signing top American players and sufficient foreign talent to interest American supporters. Matches between international teams will be played in participating cities next year to keep interest in the game alive until play begins, Rothenberg said.

Uefa, European football's governing body, yesterday lost its court battle over the sale of television rights for part of the European Cup Champions' League and insisted that the ruling may have serious consequences for the sport across the continent. Judicial officials in Bern, Switzerland, turned down turned down an appeal by Uefa against a decision last month that marketing of the club competition violated Swiss anti-cartel law.

The original action was brought by CWL Telesport, a Swiss-based company that has a contract with Sneau Bucharest, one of the 16 Champions' League teams, which allows it to market rights to the Romanians' home matches. Salvatore Cuccu, a Uefa spokesman, said that would no longer be able to market rights in Bucharest and that television audiences in large parts of the rest of Europe could also miss out.

Uefa was more concerned about longer-term implications of the ruling for both national and international championships, however. "This is a very bad decision for the future of soccer in Europe," Cuccu added.

In a later statement, Uefa officials said their policy of "financial balance" — where television revenues are used to subsidise smaller national federations — was "in serious danger".

Els begins defence of title that opened floodgates

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MIYAZAKI, JAPAN

IT WAS the shot that started it all and Ernie Els, the man who hit it, remembers it as though it were yesterday, not 12 months ago. "I was 238 yards out, the wind was right to left against and it was right at the very tip of my range. I had to kill it and I hit it just perfect, to ten feet and in it went, for eagle."

From then on, there was only one man who was going to win the Dunlop Phoenix tournament, the richest in Japan, and it was indeed Els, of South Africa, who had never won anything of note outside his own country until then but who has since been hailed as the next golfing genius.

In 1994, Els, 25, has won the Dubai Desert Classic, the US Open championship, the Toyota World Matchplay Championship and the Sarazen World Open. Today, he begins the defence of his Dunlop title at Miyazaki, on the island of Kyushu, in the south of the country.

The shot that rang around the world of golf, at the 515-yard 7th hole, was hit with a three-wood, a Lynx model with 13 degrees of loft and an extra stiff graphite shaft. Here, as at Augusta, the winner, donates a club for display in the clubhouse. How about the three-wood, Ernie?

"Jeez, I'm still using it. They're not getting that yet. I'll give them my one-iron."

"It all goes back to that one shot," Els added. "It was the start of everything. This week last year, I thought I played the best golf of my life. My game just started going... It has been going ever since, so much so that Jack Nicklaus, making his first appearance in Japan for eight years and his first here since 1976, was moved to sing the young man's praises after nine holes with him in practice yesterday."

"Ernie could be the next real dominant player. He has the golf game and the experience — at a very young age — to accomplish an awful lot. Another Golden Bear event? He could be that or he could be much better. Who knows? But he has the potential to have anything happen — although he probably has tougher competition than I had. There's more of it."

This year, the competition includes José María Olazábal, the US Masters champion, Severiano Ballesteros, European Ryder Cup players Barry Lane, Joakim Haegeman and Costantino Rocca, Vijay Singh, of Fiji, Jumbo Ozaki, of Japan — on a hat-trick of victories — and former major champions Tom Watson, Larry Nelson, Craig Stadler, Larry Mize and Scott Simpson.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL		
European championship		
Group seven	12.5 WALES	(0 0)
GERMANY	12.5 WALES	(0 0)
ITALY	12.5 WALES	(0 0)
NETS	12.5 WALES	(0 0)
OTHER MATCHES: Albania 1 Germany 2; Bulgaria 4 Moldova 1		
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP		
Group one: Poland 0 France 4; Denmark 0 Belgium 0; Macedonia 0 Group two: Spain 1 Denmark 0; Belgium 1 Macedonia 0; Bulgaria 1 Romania 0; Hungary 1 Switzerland 2		
Group three: Holland 2 Czech Republic 0; Group four: England 1 Ireland 0; Group five: Scotland 2 Moldova 0; Group six: Scotland 2 Russia 1; Group seven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eight: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group nine: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ten: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eleven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twelve: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirteen: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fourteen: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifteen: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixteen: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventeen: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighteen: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group nineteen: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty-one: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty-two: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty-three: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty-four: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty-five: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty-six: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty-seven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty-eight: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group twenty-nine: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty-one: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty-two: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty-three: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty-four: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty-five: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty-six: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty-seven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty-eight: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group thirty-nine: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty-one: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty-two: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty-three: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty-four: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty-five: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty-six: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty-seven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty-eight: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group forty-nine: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty-one: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty-two: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty-three: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty-four: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty-five: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty-six: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty-seven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty-eight: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group fifty-nine: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty-one: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty-two: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty-three: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty-four: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty-five: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty-six: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty-seven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty-eight: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group sixty-nine: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy-one: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy-two: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy-three: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy-four: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy-five: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy-six: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy-seven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy-eight: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group seventy-nine: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty-one: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty-two: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty-three: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty-four: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty-five: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty-six: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty-seven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty-eight: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group eighty-nine: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety-one: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety-two: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety-three: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety-four: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety-five: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety-six: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety-seven: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety-eight: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group ninety-nine: Scotland 2 Russia 1		
Group one hundred: Scotland 2 Russia 1		

CRICKET		
TODAY'S MATCHES		
1st Test: India vs. Australia	2nd Test: England vs. West Indies	3rd Test: South Africa vs. New Zealand
4th Test: Pakistan vs. Sri Lanka	5th Test: Bangladesh vs. Zimbabwe	6th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
7th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	8th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	9th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
10th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	11th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	12th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
13th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	14th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	15th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
16th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	17th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	18th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
19th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	20th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	21st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
22nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	23rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	24th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
25th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	26th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	27th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
28th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	29th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	30th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
31st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	32nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	33rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
34th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	35th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	36th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
37th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	38th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	39th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
40th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	41st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	42nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
43rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	44th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	45th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
46th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	47th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	48th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
49th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	50th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	51st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
52nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	53rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	54th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
55th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	56th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	57th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
58th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	59th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	60th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
61st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	62nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	63rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
64th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	65th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	66th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
67th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	68th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	69th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
70th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	71st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	72nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
73rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	74th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	75th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
76th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	77th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	78th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
79th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	80th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	81st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
82nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	83rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	84th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
85th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	86th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	87th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
88th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	89th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	90th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
91st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	92nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	93rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
94th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	95th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	96th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
97th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	98th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	99th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
100th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda		

HOCKEY		
TODAY'S MATCHES		
1st Test: India vs. Australia	2nd Test: England vs. West Indies	3rd Test: South Africa vs. New Zealand
4th Test: Pakistan vs. Sri Lanka	5th Test: Bangladesh vs. Zimbabwe	6th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
7th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	8th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	9th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
10th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	11th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	12th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
13th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	14th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	15th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
16th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	17th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	18th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
19th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	20th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	21st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
22nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	23rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	24th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
25th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	26th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	27th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
28th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	29th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	30th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
31st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	32nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	33rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
34th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	35th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	36th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
37th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	38th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	39th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
40th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	41st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	42nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
43rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	44th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	45th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
46th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	47th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	48th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
49th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	50th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	51st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
52nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	53rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	54th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
55th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	56th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	57th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
58th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	59th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	60th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
61st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	62nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	63rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
64th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	65th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	66th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
67th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	68th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	69th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
70th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	71st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	72nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
73rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	74th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	75th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
76th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	77th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	78th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
79th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	80th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	81st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
82nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	83rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	84th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
85th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	86th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	87th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
88th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	89th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	90th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
91st Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	92nd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	93rd Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
94th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	95th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	96th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
97th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	98th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	99th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
100th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda		

RUGBY UNION		
TODAY'S MATCHES		
1st Test: India vs. Australia	2nd Test: England vs. West Indies	3rd Test: South Africa vs. New Zealand
4th Test: Pakistan vs. Sri Lanka	5th Test: Bangladesh vs. Zimbabwe	6th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
7th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	8th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	9th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
10th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	11th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	12th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda
13th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	14th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda	15th Test: Kenya vs. Uganda

Easier to swat flies than demolish policies

Nothing in the relatively short history of television justifies the medium's existence as completely as wildlife programming, a craft now so developed and refined that it is close to being an art form.

Much like television sport, these programmes are of almost no practical value but they are vastly entertaining and endlessly fascinating. The BBC's natural history unit at Bristol was for many years in a class of its own but the worldwide upsurge of interest in the environment has unearched, so to speak, countless wildlife photographers of real class whose work is showcased on Channel 4 as well as on the BBC.

Of course the former lacks a personality of the impact of David Attenborough, one of only two men in the field - the other is David Bellamy - to assist in making a household name of Roy Brenner.

The clear and obvious demand for wildlife television has sent film crews tramping into ever more unlikely nooks and crannies in search of ever more exotic subjects, using ever more exotic technology: we have even had birds with cameras strapped to their backs.

It was only a matter of time before the house fly was summoned from the ranks of the extras to play a starring role and last night's *Wildlife Showcase* (BBC 2) featured this humble creature, which I have pursued with a spectacular lack of success clutching a rolled-up newspaper. Heavens no - I use a tabloid.

The fly was filmed by Kurt Mundi, but of course there was more than one fly. I know that because a fly only lives for four weeks and Mundi could not possibly have assembled this footage in that short time. The narrator was Hugh Laurie, demonstrating the

modern habit for these films of having a celebrity narrator who feels the need to show via intonation and phrasing that, yes, he is a comedy actor on a moonlight shift.

I find this style intrusive and I feel sure it has helped me forget how many times a minute a fly beats its wings. I do recall that the wings in question are no thicker than a membrane, that millions of flies are born every day and millions more die. So they breed, and drop, like flies.

Films such as this one demonstrate a mesmerising skill on the part of the film-maker and I have acquired a new respect for these silly, useless, annoying creatures. Next time I see one I shall take a broadsheet to it.

How time flies: we are apparently reaching the tenth anniversary of that centrepiece of the 1980s radical agenda, privatisation, and last

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

night's *Dispatches* (Channel 4) took a rolled-up attitude to the policy.

By the end of the hour it lay bruised and twitching, but very far from dead. The aim was to show that privatisation was a rip-off from which the utilities' chairman and a few others had profited at the expense of the great British public, but the case was not properly made. Or rather, the case

was made but it was the wrong debate.

We know that privatisation of the main utilities created millions in their boardrooms, assisted in most cases by an offer price that was too low. I think we knew that all 12 of the regional electricity board chairmen have made a million - and six of them two million.

Both Norman (Lord) Tebbit and Cecil (Lord) Parkinson, prime movers in the process, admitted that there might have been shortcomings in the way some privatisations were handled.

But overpaid chairmen and underpaid share issues are old hat: the real issue is whether privatisation is right in principle, whether the old public boards were the right context in which to run major businesses. Surely they were not.

Dispatches failed to see the wood for the trees, because it

became obsessed with personalities and dramatic devices, including a daft stunt to do with a private club the programme invented where shadowy figures sucked on cigars and drank champagne.

Dispatches is a very good documentary series, but this one was playing to the gallery.

No shortage of galleries in the Palace of Westminster, where the State Opening of Parliament (BBC 1) was played out yesterday in a ceremony designed centuries ago on the off-chance that one day someone would invent television to do the procedure justice. And not just television but the BBC, an organisation which recognises an institution when it sees one.

Robes, ermine, crowns, horses, carriages and liveried flunkies walking backwards in deference to Her Majesty... this is the kind of television event that shuts out

foreigners and allows us to wallow in the delusion that the more things change the more they stay the same.

That is a truism usually expressed in French, but Lord Tebbit, commenting in the BBC's Westminster studio, was damned if he was going to use that language on this of all days. However he did say that President Mitterrand had been "a Nazi collaborator" in 1940 and that he had been kept under wraps until recently because the French parliamentary system, unlike our adversarial one, consisted of rule by edict, which allowed such things to be covered up.

What this had to do with the state opening was not immediately clear, and I was still trying to work it out when the Lord Chancellor retreated backwards having retrieved the speech from the Queen. Had she said anything interesting? Search me - try Page One.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast with Paul Burden, Sara Croom and Heather Payton (20388)
- 7.00am Breakfast News (9183104)
- 9.05am *Kilroy* (s) (2030388)
- 10.00am News (CeeFax) and weather (5284920)
- 10.05am Good Morning with Anne and Mick, *Weekday magazine* (CeeFax) (5022372)
- 12.00pm News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (7412455) 12.05pm Pebble Mill (s) (6062814) 12.55pm Regional News and weather (2637876)
- 1.00pm One O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (44123)
- 1.30pm Neighbours, (CeeFax) (s) (5555104) 1.50pm Mary Berry's Ultimate Cakes, Recipes for cakes for special occasions (s) (9892078) 2.00pm Red and Blue Cartoon (s) (7596372)
- 2.05pm *FLIM: Trouble in Store* (1953, b/w) starring Norman Wisdom and Margaret Rutherford. Comedy about a young man with an ambition to be a department store window dresser. Directed by John Paddy Carstairs (523611)
- 3.30pm The Little Polar Bear (s) (3222340) 3.35pm William's Wish Wellingtons (s) (3201611) 3.40pm Fireman Sam (s) (3222104) 3.50pm Brum (s) (421369) 4.05pm The Animals of Farthing Wood (s) (CeeFax) (s) (845291) 4.35pm The Boot Street Band, (CeeFax) (s) (1438807)
- 5.05pm *Newsround* (4571745) 5.10pm Blue Peter, includes the announcement of the winner of the 1994 Smarties Book Prize and tribute to Glenn Miller, who died 50 years ago this week. (CeeFax) (s) (5330524)
- 5.35pm Neighbours (s) (CeeFax) (s) (864562)
- 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (291)
- 6.30pm Regional news magazines (543)
- 7.00pm Top of the Pops (CeeFax) (s) (9001)
- 7.30pm EastEnders, (CeeFax) (s) (727)



Daniel with his specialist (8.00pm)

- 8.00pm *Children's Hospital*, (CeeFax) (5949)
- 8.30pm The Vicar of Dibley, Comedy series starring Dawn French as a woman priest. (CeeFax) (4456)
- 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (7524)
- 9.30pm Crocodile Shoes, Episode two of the seven-part drama starring Jimmy Nail as a Newcastle factory worker with dreams of a country and western career. (CeeFax) (s) (905549)
- 10.25pm Question Time, David Dimbleby's guests include Janet Daley, a Times columnist, and Mike Jackson, Lib Dem MP. (CeeFax) (s) (905549)
- 11.05pm *WrestleMania* (1976) starring Dusty Hoffman and Laurence Olivier. A sometimes violent drama, based on the novel by William Golding, about a post-graduate student involved in the pursuit of a Nazi war criminal. Directed by John Schlesinger. (CeeFax) (115104) 1.25am Weather (9031437)
- 3.00-3.30pm BBC Select: RCN Nursing Update (s) (86656)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
- As London except 6.05am-10.00am Anglia News (203220) 12.05pm-12.30pm Anglia News (401342) 1.30pm The Young Doctors (555555) 2.05pm-2.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.00pm-3.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.35pm-3.50pm The High Road (203745) 3.55pm-4.00pm The High Road (203745) 4.05pm-4.20pm The High Road (203745) 4.25pm-4.40pm The High Road (203745) 4.45pm-4.55pm The High Road (203745) 5.00pm-5.10pm The High Road (203745) 5.15pm-5.30pm The High Road (203745) 5.35pm-5.50pm The High Road (203745) 5.55pm-6.00pm The High Road (203745) 6.05pm-6.20pm The High Road (203745) 6.25pm-6.40pm The High Road (203745) 6.45pm-6.55pm The High Road (203745) 7.00pm-7.10pm The High Road (203745) 7.15pm-7.30pm The High Road (203745) 7.35pm-7.50pm The High Road (203745) 7.55pm-8.00pm The High Road (203745) 8.05pm-8.20pm The High Road (203745) 8.25pm-8.40pm The High Road (203745) 8.45pm-8.55pm The High Road (203745) 9.00pm-9.10pm The High Road (203745) 9.15pm-9.30pm The High Road (203745) 9.35pm-9.50pm The High Road (203745) 9.55pm-10.00pm The High Road (203745) 10.05pm-10.20pm The High Road (203745) 10.25pm-10.40pm The High Road (203745) 10.45pm-10.55pm The High Road (203745) 11.00pm-11.10pm The High Road (203745) 11.15pm-11.30pm The High Road (203745) 11.35pm-11.50pm The High Road (203745) 11.55pm-12.00pm The High Road (203745) 12.05pm-12.30pm The High Road (203745) 12.35pm-12.50pm The High Road (203745) 12.55pm-1.00pm The High Road (203745) 1.05pm-1.20pm The High Road (203745) 1.25pm-1.40pm The High Road (203745) 1.45pm-1.55pm The High Road (203745) 1.55pm-2.00pm The High Road (203745) 2.05pm-2.20pm The High Road (203745) 2.25pm-2.40pm The High Road (203745) 2.45pm-2.55pm The High Road (203745) 3.00pm-3.10pm The High Road (203745) 3.15pm-3.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.35pm-3.50pm The High Road (203745) 3.55pm-4.00pm The High Road (203745) 4.05pm-4.20pm The High Road (203745) 4.25pm-4.40pm The High Road (203745) 4.45pm-4.55pm The High Road (203745) 5.00pm-5.10pm The High Road (203745) 5.15pm-5.30pm The High Road (203745) 5.35pm-5.50pm The High Road (203745) 5.55pm-6.00pm The High Road (203745) 6.05pm-6.20pm The High Road (203745) 6.25pm-6.40pm The High Road (203745) 6.45pm-6.55pm The High Road (203745) 7.00pm-7.10pm The High Road (203745) 7.15pm-7.30pm The High Road (203745) 7.35pm-7.50pm The High Road (203745) 7.55pm-8.00pm The High Road (203745) 8.05pm-8.20pm The High Road (203745) 8.25pm-8.40pm The High Road (203745) 8.45pm-8.55pm The High Road (203745) 9.00pm-9.10pm The High Road (203745) 9.15pm-9.30pm The High Road (203745) 9.35pm-9.50pm The High Road (203745) 9.55pm-10.00pm The High Road (203745) 10.05pm-10.20pm The High Road (203745) 10.25pm-10.40pm The High Road (203745) 10.45pm-10.55pm The High Road (203745) 11.00pm-11.10pm The High Road (203745) 11.15pm-11.30pm The High Road (203745) 11.35pm-11.50pm The High Road (203745) 11.55pm-12.00pm The High Road (203745) 12.05pm-12.30pm The High Road (203745) 12.35pm-12.50pm The High Road (203745) 12.55pm-1.00pm The High Road (203745) 1.05pm-1.20pm The High Road (203745) 1.25pm-1.40pm The High Road (203745) 1.45pm-1.55pm The High Road (203745) 1.55pm-2.00pm The High Road (203745) 2.05pm-2.20pm The High Road (203745) 2.25pm-2.40pm The High Road (203745) 2.45pm-2.55pm The High Road (203745) 3.00pm-3.10pm The High Road (203745) 3.15pm-3.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.35pm-3.50pm The High Road (203745) 3.55pm-4.00pm The High Road (203745) 4.05pm-4.20pm The High Road (203745) 4.25pm-4.40pm The High Road (203745) 4.45pm-4.55pm The High Road (203745) 5.00pm-5.10pm The High Road (203745) 5.15pm-5.30pm The High Road (203745) 5.35pm-5.50pm The High Road (203745) 5.55pm-6.00pm The High Road (203745) 6.05pm-6.20pm The High Road (203745) 6.25pm-6.40pm The High Road (203745) 6.45pm-6.55pm The High Road (203745) 7.00pm-7.10pm The High Road (203745) 7.15pm-7.30pm The High Road (203745) 7.35pm-7.50pm The High Road (203745) 7.55pm-8.00pm The High Road (203745) 8.05pm-8.20pm The High Road (203745) 8.25pm-8.40pm The High Road (203745) 8.45pm-8.55pm The High Road (203745) 9.00pm-9.10pm The High Road (203745) 9.15pm-9.30pm The High Road (203745) 9.35pm-9.50pm The High Road (203745) 9.55pm-10.00pm The High Road (203745) 10.05pm-10.20pm The High Road (203745) 10.25pm-10.40pm The High Road (203745) 10.45pm-10.55pm The High Road (203745) 11.00pm-11.10pm The High Road (203745) 11.15pm-11.30pm The High Road (203745) 11.35pm-11.50pm The High Road (203745) 11.55pm-12.00pm The High Road (203745) 12.05pm-12.30pm The High Road (203745) 12.35pm-12.50pm The High Road (203745) 12.55pm-1.00pm The High Road (203745) 1.05pm-1.20pm The High Road (203745) 1.25pm-1.40pm The High Road (203745) 1.45pm-1.55pm The High Road (203745) 1.55pm-2.00pm The High Road (203745) 2.05pm-2.20pm The High Road (203745) 2.25pm-2.40pm The High Road (203745) 2.45pm-2.55pm The High Road (203745) 3.00pm-3.10pm The High Road (203745) 3.15pm-3.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.35pm-3.50pm The High Road (203745) 3.55pm-4.00pm The High Road (203745) 4.05pm-4.20pm The High Road (203745) 4.25pm-4.40pm The High Road (203745) 4.45pm-4.55pm The High Road (203745) 5.00pm-5.10pm The High Road (203745) 5.15pm-5.30pm The High Road (203745) 5.35pm-5.50pm The High Road (203745) 5.55pm-6.00pm The High Road (203745) 6.05pm-6.20pm The High Road (203745) 6.25pm-6.40pm The High Road (203745) 6.45pm-6.55pm The High Road (203745) 7.00pm-7.10pm The High Road (203745) 7.15pm-7.30pm The High Road (203745) 7.35pm-7.50pm The High Road (203745) 7.55pm-8.00pm The High Road (203745) 8.05pm-8.20pm The High Road (203745) 8.25pm-8.40pm The High Road (203745) 8.45pm-8.55pm The High Road (203745) 9.00pm-9.10pm The High Road (203745) 9.15pm-9.30pm The High Road (203745) 9.35pm-9.50pm The High Road (203745) 9.55pm-10.00pm The High Road (203745) 10.05pm-10.20pm The High Road (203745) 10.25pm-10.40pm The High Road (203745) 10.45pm-10.55pm The High Road (203745) 11.00pm-11.10pm The High Road (203745) 11.15pm-11.30pm The High Road (203745) 11.35pm-11.50pm The High Road (203745) 11.55pm-12.00pm The High Road (203745) 12.05pm-12.30pm The High Road (203745) 12.35pm-12.50pm The High Road (203745) 12.55pm-1.00pm The High Road (203745) 1.05pm-1.20pm The High Road (203745) 1.25pm-1.40pm The High Road (203745) 1.45pm-1.55pm The High Road (203745) 1.55pm-2.00pm The High Road (203745) 2.05pm-2.20pm The High Road (203745) 2.25pm-2.40pm The High Road (203745) 2.45pm-2.55pm The High Road (203745) 3.00pm-3.10pm The High Road (203745) 3.15pm-3.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.35pm-3.50pm The High Road (203745) 3.55pm-4.00pm The High Road (203745) 4.05pm-4.20pm The High Road (203745) 4.25pm-4.40pm The High Road (203745) 4.45pm-4.55pm The High Road (203745) 5.00pm-5.10pm The High Road (203745) 5.15pm-5.30pm The High Road (203745) 5.35pm-5.50pm The High Road (203745) 5.55pm-6.00pm The High Road (203745) 6.05pm-6.20pm The High Road (203745) 6.25pm-6.40pm The High Road (203745) 6.45pm-6.55pm The High Road (203745) 7.00pm-7.10pm The High Road (203745) 7.15pm-7.30pm The High Road (203745) 7.35pm-7.50pm The High Road (203745) 7.55pm-8.00pm The High Road (203745) 8.05pm-8.20pm The High Road (203745) 8.25pm-8.40pm The High Road (203745) 8.45pm-8.55pm The High Road (203745) 9.00pm-9.10pm The High Road (203745) 9.15pm-9.30pm The High Road (203745) 9.35pm-9.50pm The High Road (203745) 9.55pm-10.00pm The High Road (203745) 10.05pm-10.20pm The High Road (203745) 10.25pm-10.40pm The High Road (203745) 10.45pm-10.55pm The High Road (203745) 11.00pm-11.10pm The High Road (203745) 11.15pm-11.30pm The High Road (203745) 11.35pm-11.50pm The High Road (203745) 11.55pm-12.00pm The High Road (203745) 12.05pm-12.30pm The High Road (203745) 12.35pm-12.50pm The High Road (203745) 12.55pm-1.00pm The High Road (203745) 1.05pm-1.20pm The High Road (203745) 1.25pm-1.40pm The High Road (203745) 1.45pm-1.55pm The High Road (203745) 1.55pm-2.00pm The High Road (203745) 2.05pm-2.20pm The High Road (203745) 2.25pm-2.40pm The High Road (203745) 2.45pm-2.55pm The High Road (203745) 3.00pm-3.10pm The High Road (203745) 3.15pm-3.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.35pm-3.50pm The High Road (203745) 3.55pm-4.00pm The High Road (203745) 4.05pm-4.20pm The High Road (203745) 4.25pm-4.40pm The High Road (203745) 4.45pm-4.55pm The High Road (203745) 5.00pm-5.10pm The High Road (203745) 5.15pm-5.30pm The High Road (203745) 5.35pm-5.50pm The High Road (203745) 5.55pm-6.00pm The High Road (203745) 6.05pm-6.20pm The High Road (203745) 6.25pm-6.40pm The High Road (203745) 6.45pm-6.55pm The High Road (203745) 7.00pm-7.10pm The High Road (203745) 7.15pm-7.30pm The High Road (203745) 7.35pm-7.50pm The High Road (203745) 7.55pm-8.00pm The High Road (203745) 8.05pm-8.20pm The High Road (203745) 8.25pm-8.40pm The High Road (203745) 8.45pm-8.55pm The High Road (203745) 9.00pm-9.10pm The High Road (203745) 9.15pm-9.30pm The High Road (203745) 9.35pm-9.50pm The High Road (203745) 9.55pm-10.00pm The High Road (203745) 10.05pm-10.20pm The High Road (203745) 10.25pm-10.40pm The High Road (203745) 10.45pm-10.55pm The High Road (203745) 11.00pm-11.10pm The High Road (203745) 11.15pm-11.30pm The High Road (203745) 11.35pm-11.50pm The High Road (203745) 11.55pm-12.00pm The High Road (203745) 12.05pm-12.30pm The High Road (203745) 12.35pm-12.50pm The High Road (203745) 12.55pm-1.00pm The High Road (203745) 1.05pm-1.20pm The High Road (203745) 1.25pm-1.40pm The High Road (203745) 1.45pm-1.55pm The High Road (203745) 1.55pm-2.00pm The High Road (203745) 2.05pm-2.20pm The High Road (203745) 2.25pm-2.40pm The High Road (203745) 2.45pm-2.55pm The High Road (203745) 3.00pm-3.10pm The High Road (203745) 3.15pm-3.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.35pm-3.50pm The High Road (203745) 3.55pm-4.00pm The High Road (203745) 4.05pm-4.20pm The High Road (203745) 4.25pm-4.40pm The High Road (203745) 4.45pm-4.55pm The High Road (203745) 5.00pm-5.10pm The High Road (203745) 5.15pm-5.30pm The High Road (203745) 5.35pm-5.50pm The High Road (203745) 5.55pm-6.00pm The High Road (203745) 6.05pm-6.20pm The High Road (203745) 6.25pm-6.40pm The High Road (203745) 6.45pm-6.55pm The High Road (203745) 7.00pm-7.10pm The High Road (203745) 7.15pm-7.30pm The High Road (203745) 7.35pm-7.50pm The High Road (203745) 7.55pm-8.00pm The High Road (203745) 8.05pm-8.20pm The High Road (203745) 8.25pm-8.40pm The High Road (203745) 8.45pm-8.55pm The High Road (203745) 9.00pm-9.10pm The High Road (203745) 9.15pm-9.30pm The High Road (203745) 9.35pm-9.50pm The High Road (203745) 9.55pm-10.00pm The High Road (203745) 10.05pm-10.20pm The High Road (203745) 10.25pm-10.40pm The High Road (203745) 10.45pm-10.55pm The High Road (203745) 11.00pm-11.10pm The High Road (203745) 11.15pm-11.30pm The High Road (203745) 11.35pm-11.50pm The High Road (203745) 11.55pm-12.00pm The High Road (203745) 12.05pm-12.30pm The High Road (203745) 12.35pm-12.50pm The High Road (203745) 12.55pm-1.00pm The High Road (203745) 1.05pm-1.20pm The High Road (203745) 1.25pm-1.40pm The High Road (203745) 1.45pm-1.55pm The High Road (203745) 1.55pm-2.00pm The High Road (203745) 2.05pm-2.20pm The High Road (203745) 2.25pm-2.40pm The High Road (203745) 2.45pm-2.55pm The High Road (203745) 3.00pm-3.10pm The High Road (203745) 3.15pm-3.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.35pm-3.50pm The High Road (203745) 3.55pm-4.00pm The High Road (203745) 4.05pm-4.20pm The High Road (203745) 4.25pm-4.40pm The High Road (203745) 4.45pm-4.55pm The High Road (203745) 5.00pm-5.10pm The High Road (203745) 5.15pm-5.30pm The High Road (203745) 5.35pm-5.50pm The High Road (203745) 5.55pm-6.00pm The High Road (203745) 6.05pm-6.20pm The High Road (203745) 6.25pm-6.40pm The High Road (203745) 6.45pm-6.55pm The High Road (203745) 7.00pm-7.10pm The High Road (203745) 7.15pm-7.30pm The High Road (203745) 7.35pm-7.50pm The High Road (203745) 7.55pm-8.00pm The High Road (203745) 8.05pm-8.20pm The High Road (203745) 8.25pm-8.40pm The High Road (203745) 8.45pm-8.55pm The High Road (203745) 9.00pm-9.10pm The High Road (203745) 9.15pm-9.30pm The High Road (203745) 9.35pm-9.50pm The High Road (203745) 9.55pm-10.00pm The High Road (203745) 10.05pm-10.20pm The High Road (203745) 10.25pm-10.40pm The High Road (203745) 10.45pm-10.55pm The High Road (203745) 11.00pm-11.10pm The High Road (203745) 11.15pm-11.30pm The High Road (203745) 11.35pm-11.50pm The High Road (203745) 11.55pm-12.00pm The High Road (203745) 12.05pm-12.30pm The High Road (203745) 12.35pm-12.50pm The High Road (203745) 12.55pm-1.00pm The High Road (203745) 1.05pm-1.20pm The High Road (203745) 1.25pm-1.40pm The High Road (203745) 1.45pm-1.55pm The High Road (203745) 1.55pm-2.00pm The High Road (203745) 2.05pm-2.20pm The High Road (203745) 2.25pm-2.40pm The High Road (203745) 2.45pm-2.55pm The High Road (203745) 3.00pm-3.10pm The High Road (203745) 3.15pm-3.30pm The High Road (203745) 3.35pm-3.50pm The High Road (203745) 3.55pm-4.00pm The High Road (203745) 4.05pm-4.20pm The High Road (203745) 4.25pm-4.40pm The High Road (203745) 4.45pm-4.55pm The High Road (203745) 5.00pm-5.10pm The High Road (203745) 5.15pm-5.30pm The High Road (203745) 5.35pm-5.50pm The High Road (203745) 5.55pm-6.00pm The High Road (203745) 6.05pm-6.20pm The High Road (203745) 6.25pm-6.40pm The High Road (203745) 6.45pm-6.55pm The High Road (203745) 7.00pm-7.10pm The High Road (203745) 7.15pm-7.30pm The High Road (203745) 7.35pm-7.50pm The High Road (203745) 7.55pm-8.00pm The High Road (203745) 8.05pm-8.20pm The High Road (203745) 8.25pm-8.40pm The High Road (203745) 8.45pm-8.55pm The High Road (203745) 9.00pm-9.10pm The High Road (203745) 9.15pm-9.30pm The High Road (203745) 9.35pm-9.50pm The High Road (203745) 9.55pm-10.00pm The High Road (203745) 10.05pm-10.20pm The High Road (203745) 10.25pm-10.40pm The High Road (203745) 10.45pm-10.55pm The High Road (203745) 11.00pm-11.10pm The High Road (203745) 11.15pm-11.30pm The High Road (203745) 11.35pm-11.50pm The High Road (203745) 11.55pm-12.00pm The High Road (203745) 12.05pm-12.30pm The High Road (203745) 12.35pm-12.50pm The High Road (203745) 12.55pm-1.00pm The High Road (203745) 1.05pm-1.20pm The High Road (203745)

Smith's future in doubt as Georgia inflict humiliating defeat



Rush, the Wales striker, hurdles a challenge by Chelia during a rare threatening attack in their European championship qualifying match against Georgia yesterday

Sorry Wales sink to new depths

Georgia 5
Wales 0

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON
IN TBILISI

ON A rainy afternoon in Georgia yesterday, Wales disappeared from European football championship contention. They slumped to their second successive defeat in the former Soviet Union and their group seven hopes are now in tatters. Georgia, collecting their first goals and points of the qualifying campaign, were just as capable, if not more so, than Mike Smith, the Wales manager, had been warned. Although Georgia had lost to Moldova and Bulgaria, Smith's scouts had reported of an individually talented side that would attack with pace and control. It proved to be the case, five-fold.

However, Smith had not expected such an ineffective and abject performance from his own team against a country whose football association was formed only two years ago. In the vast yet dilapidated Boris Paichadze National Stadium, his worst fears came true.

"We are all ashamed in the dressing-room," Smith said. "We have been whacked and I may need a couple of brandies to recover from this. I would

like to apologise to everyone in Wales for that display. The players are ashamed because they have been totally played off the park." Asked about his future, Smith said: "It is not about one person, but I suppose somebody has to take the blame and, of course, I am responsible because I pick the team. What lies in store for me? You can only make your own assumptions about that."

Wales made five changes from the team that lost 3-2 in Moldova, with Neilson and Melville coming in at the back and Saunders, Rush and Hughes up front. Saunders played behind Hughes and Rush and was at his industri-

ous best in the opening exchanges. However, it was the only plus-point in the Welsh display as Georgia, skilful and nimble, began to take control with almost contemptuous ease.

Southall made good early saves from Ketsbaya and Arveladze, but Georgia's blossoming play reached its peak on the half-hour when they took the lead. Arveladze released Gogrichiani on the right and his cross fell perfectly for Ketsbaya at the far post. He chested the ball down, looked up and curled a superb shot over Southall.

Nine minutes later, Neh-sadze released Kinkladze with

a fine through-ball into the heart of the Welsh half. Kinkladze raced through on his own, drew Southall and comfortably slipped his shot past him.

Sadly, Wales responded with spite, not pride. Speed being booked for a late and high tackle on Kinkladze and Hughes also receiving a yellow card for bundling over Chikhradze. It did not get better in the second half as Wales conceded another three goals in a humiliating 17-minute spell.

The third Georgia goal arrived in the 49th minute, when Ketsbaya cut in from the left and, once again, spotted Sou-

thall fractionally off his line. He glanced up and again judged his lob to perfection, leaving Southall stranded.

In the 58th minute, Gogrichiani sent in a 20-yard curler that struck a post, but it was only a temporary reprieve for Wales. Arveladze collected the ball as it bounced out towards the touchline, jinked back into the area and then supplied the waiting Gogrichiani with the pass that he wanted. Gogrichiani flicked the ball up nonchalantly and chipped it over Southall, who was by now distraught.

A brief rally followed on the hour when Phillips swung over a corner from the left and

Melville ran in to power a header against the crossbar, but it was only a temporary lapse by the Georgia defence and, six minutes later, they completed the rout with yet another superb individual effort. Arveladze, a thorn in the Welsh flesh all afternoon, cut in from an angle on the right and, with Southall again exposed, picked his spot.

Wales battled on to the end, but with little inspiration or hope of success. They had then been exposed for what they are — a second or probably third-rate team — and there were no excuses. Smith and his players trooped off, their heads bowed. Smith even forgot the traditional handshake with the opposing coach, Alex Chivadze, the former Soviet Union international, but his mind was on other things. No snub was intended and none taken: it was simply a case of Smith being locked in his own thoughts. What they are will probably be revealed within the week.

At Zabrze, France held Poland to a 0-0 draw in a group one fixture, despite having their midfield player, Christian Karembeu, sent off early in the second half for a second bookable offence. It was France's third goalless draw in as many championship games.

Georgia: O Davitashvili, Z. Roshchuk, K. Chikhradze, M. Chelia, G. Chikhradze, K. Gogrichiani, G. Nehsadze (capt), G. Gogrichiani, G. Gogrichiani, T. Ketsbaya (sub: M. Kavelashvili, 75), G. Kinkladze, S. Arveladze.

Wales (3-4-1-2): N. Southall (Everton) — A. Neilson (Newcastle United), sub: R. Symons (Preston), 40, A. Melville (Sunderland), C. Coleman (Crystal Palace) — O. Phillips (Nottingham Forest), B. Horne (Cardiff), G. Saunders (Leeds), M. Bowen (Newcastle), sub: O. Saunders (Leeds), 11, I. Rush (Liverpool), M. Hughes (Manchester United), 19, sub: A. Sars (France).

News of crash inquiry puts Schumacher's title in doubt

BY OLIVER HOIT

LIKE an addict who just cannot get enough, Formula One injected a final shot of controversy into a season that everyone thought had ended when officials at the international motor sport federation (FIA) leaked the news yesterday that they were considering summoning Michael Schumacher and Damon Hill to a disciplinary hearing in Paris to discuss their collision during the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide last Sunday.

Max Mosley, the FIA president, is understood to be pressing for the hearing to take place before the sport's world council in Paris during the second week in December, shortly before the championship trophy is due to be handed to Schumacher. The obvious implication of the leak is that the young German may be stripped of his title and that it may be handed to Hill.

The FIA confirmed yesterday that they were awaiting the report of their official observer in Adelaide and that this was a routine procedure. No decision about whether the two drivers, who clashed on the 36th lap of the 81-lap race and were both forced to retire, should be summoned to Paris would be taken until the report had been received, a spokesman said.

There was outrage in many quarters after Schumacher appeared to cut across Hill's path as the Williams-Renault driver tried to overtake him immediately after the German had lost control of his Benetton-Ford and slammed it into a wall. Schumacher's car was almost certainly damaged beyond repair and Hill would only have needed to finish in the top five in the race to have clinched the championship.

Hill's car was also terminally damaged in the clash with Schumacher, but the Briton has steadfastly refused to condemn his opponent and Frank Williams, the team owner, said that he would not lodge a protest because he did not want to win the championship by having Schumacher penalised for the third time this season.

That the FIA is even considering dragging its new world champion — who has appeared before the world council so often this season that he

must be considering buying a second home in Paris — over the coals when Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost both escaped without sanction for their championship-deciding accidents in 1989 and 1990 surprised most observers. It will only perpetuate the perception that there is a vendetta between Mosley and Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director.

Other powerful figures within the sport were thought to be opposed to the idea of another bout of infighting, another argument that could only devalue the championship further. There is a lot of sympathy for Hill, and he may well have a case, but he has accepted the result and the time has come to let the season rest in peace.



Mosley: vendetta claims

Briatore, now a veteran of these upheavals, refused to comment on the latest furore yesterday. Nor was there a reaction from Williams, who is fully occupied with trying to choose between Nigel Mansell and David Coulthard to partner Hill next year.

Mansell seemed to have established himself as the overwhelming favourite after his win in Adelaide, but sources close to the team said last night that there was only a 30 per cent chance that he would drive for Williams in 1995. It is more likely that Jean Alesi will move from Ferrari to either McLaren or Benetton, and that Mansell will resume his love affair with the Italian team and the fans who nicknamed him *Il Leone* during his last spell there.

GROUP SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	2	2	0	0	1	5	6
Moldova	2	2	0	0	1	5	6
Georgia	3	1	0	0	2	3	3
Germany	3	1	0	0	2	3	3
Wales	3	1	0	0	2	3	3
Albania	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

RESULTS: Georgia 0 Moldova 1, Wales 2 Albania 0, Moldova 3 Wales 2, Bulgaria 2 Georgia 5 Wales 0, Bulgaria 4 Moldova 1.

FIXTURES: Dec 14: Wales v Bulgaria, Moldova v Germany, Albania v Georgia, Dec 18: Germany v Albania, 1995: Mar 28: Georgia v Germany, Bulgaria v Wales, Albania v Moldova, Apr 28: Germany v Wales, Moldova v Bulgaria, Georgia v Wales, May 1: Wales v Albania, Sep 6: Germany v Georgia, Wales v Moldova, Albania v Bulgaria, Nov 18: Germany v Bulgaria, Albania v Wales, Moldova v Georgia.

Klinsmann strikes first blow

THE Tottenham Hotspur forward, Jürgen Klinsmann, put Germany on the way to a 2-1 victory over Albania in the opening match of their European championship group seven qualifying campaign in Tirana yesterday.

Klinsmann scored after 18 minutes and although Zmijani equalised for Albania 15 minutes later, Kirsten regained the lead for Germany immediately after the interval.

Albania, who hit a post in the closing seconds of the

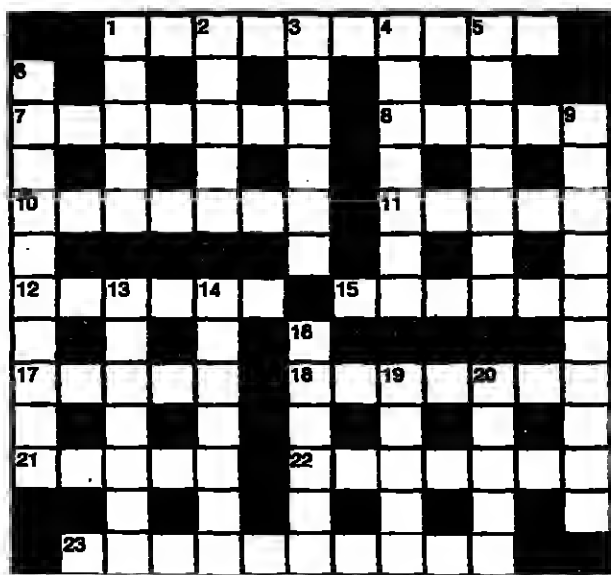
match, had lost seven of their previous eight games against Germany, although the only draw, 0-0 in 1967, eliminated the Germans from the following year's European finals, the only time they have failed to qualify for a major tournament.

Moldavia, who began the day at the head of the group following wins over Wales and Georgia, came back to earth in Sofia, losing 4-1 to Bulgaria.

Stoichkov put the Bulgarians ahead on the stroke of

half-time, but Moldova equalised on the hour through Ciesenko. Balakov restored the home lead five minutes later and Stoichkov and Balakov struck in the last five minutes.

At Zabrze, France held Poland to a 0-0 draw in a group one fixture, despite having their midfield player, Christian Karembeu, sent off early in the second half for a second bookable offence. It was France's third goalless draw in as many championship games.



FINE ATLASES from Times Books (Reduced postage until Dec 31)
The Times Atlas of the World: 9th Comprehensive Edition £85.50; 6th Concise £35.50 — Family £17.49 — Compact £8.49 — Pocket £5.49. The Times Atlas of World History £40.50. Concise Edition (pbk) NEW £15.49. The Times Atlas & Encyclopedia of the Sea £28. The Times Atlas of the Bible £30. Concise Edition £10.49. The Times Atlas of Archaeology £35.50. The Times London History Atlas £21.49. The Times Atlas of European History NEW £25.50.
Prices include P&P (UK) Cheques payable to Akam Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE15 5QW. Tel (081-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 321

ACROSS

- Happen (4,2,4)
- Narrative division (7)
- Make merry (5)
- Card game: sort of bridge (7)
- Opinionated person (5)
- Take in (food) (6)
- Disclose (6)
- Characteristic form of speech (5)
- Of ideal society (7)
- Small-scale copy (5)
- Material between bedrock and surface layer (7)
- In manner unbecomingly erotic (10)

DOWN

- Series of links (5)
- Short phrase eg on oval of arms (5)
- King's seat (6)
- Story with indirect religious teaching (7)
- Mme de —, 17C letter-writer (7)
- Mistrust of accepted beliefs (10)
- Dickens' heroine, tear-jerking death (6,4)
- Tool-sharpener (7)
- Embroidery specimen (7)
- Follow determinedly (6)
- Planet's path (5)
- Elephant tusk material (5)

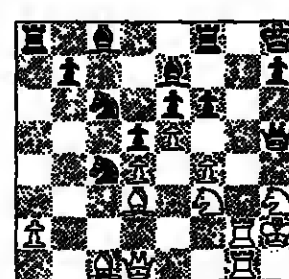
SOLUTION TO NO 320

ACROSS: 8 Isolate 9 Prate 10 To the full 11 Tow
12 Ditch 14 Lottery 15 Pyramid 17 Extol 19 Low 20 Cur-
rently 22 Acute 23 Send off
DOWN: 1 Pined 2 Gout 3 Take the mickey 4 Sequel 5 Spill
the beans 6 Maltreat 7 Medway 13 Throw out 15 Pillar
16 Duress 18 Lay off 21 Troy

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game *Liss-Shachar*, Israel 1994. In this position White had planned a brilliant mating combination. What did he have in mind?



Solution, page 43
Raymond Keene, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MAFFICK
a. To celebrate a special day
b. A stepmother
c. A dwarf palm tree
PEPPER-POT
a. A buttress
b. A pot bunker on Scottish links
c. Potting a fellow gun

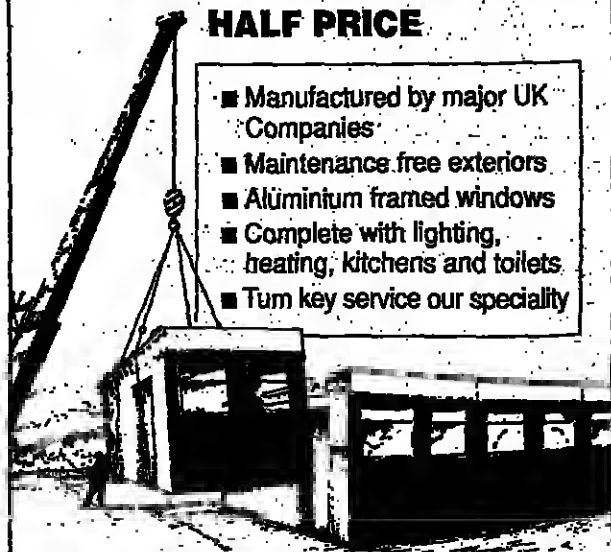
CHEESE
a. A hazard chase
b. A skittle missile
c. The target in *petanque*
BISQUE
a. A second service
b. A lobster pot
c. A free shot

Answers on page 43

MOBILE BUILDINGS
BARGAIN PRICES

We have for sale or hire 2000 sq.m.
of modular buildings with
Stenni-clad and ply exteriors available
NOW FOR SALE AT LESS THAN
HALF PRICE.

- Manufactured by major UK Companies
- Maintenance free exteriors
- Aluminium framed windows
- Complete with lighting, heating, kitchens and toilets
- Turn key service our speciality



Virtually any size or shape
of building can be achieved
to suit your needs from
2000 sq.m. to 50 sq.m.

Call Martin Crysell or Alan Proto
(T) 0580 212 212 (F) 0580 212 322

GLOBAL MOBILE

MOBILE BUILDING SPECIALISTS

CHESHIRE, ENGLAND